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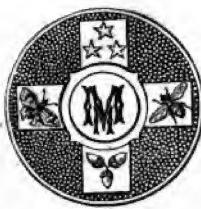


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## SAMSON AGONISTES.



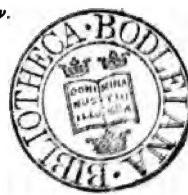


MILTONI  
SAMSON AGONISTES.

GRÆCE REDDIDIT

GEORGIUS, BARO LYTTELTON.

νῦν αὖτε σκοπὸν ἀλλασ.



LONDINI  
APUD MACMILLAN ET SOC.  
M DCCC LXVII.

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300 . g . 18 .

CANTABRIGIÆ  
TYPIS ACADEMICIS EXCUDERAT  
C. J. CLAY, A. M.

CAROLO J. BAYLEY,

INTER SODALES SUOS

ANTIQUISSIMO,

GRAIORUM MUSÆ

AMANTISSIMO,

D. D.

L.



VIR eruditus Edvardus Greswell, cum Miltoni  
poema cui titulus Samson Agonistes Græce  
reddidisset, non manum de tabula sustulit donec  
alterum illud quod Comus vocatur in eandem linguam  
æqua diligentia, æquo successu, transfudisset. Quem  
sane iniquo Marte æmulari ausus, inverso ordine, qui  
Comum olim aggressus fuerim, non mihi temperavi  
quin Samsonem etiam tractandum susciperem: pro-  
culdubio nihil posthac in eodem genere, nisi fortasse

brevissima quædam et levissima, tentaturus. Extremum hunc concede laborem.

Memor autem mendorum quæ plurima, quæ gravia, Comum istum maculaverant, quem nimis audacter in lucem emisissem absque doctiorum et exercitatiōrum recensione, opus meum, priusquam publici juris fieret, nonnullis in hoc genere spectatis excutiendum commisi. Viris doctissimis, humanissimis, præsertim A. W. Chatfield, C. O. Goodford, F. A. Paley, R. Shilleto, grates mihi impense, iterum atque iterum agendæ sunt, propter operam in re molesta et longi laboris, sedulissime, felicissime, nata-  
tam. Horum ope, ni valde fallor, sperare licet Criticos in hoc libello graviores saltem errores non deprehensuros esse. Meminerit vero lector, me fere in omnibus quæ VV. DD. corrigenda notaverint, illorum judicium meo anteposuisse: nunquam, nisi in paucis

iisque levioris momenti, verba ipsa quæ abundanter suppeditabant, usurpasse. Hanc mihi legem impo-  
nendam censui, non, mehercle, quia ignarus essem  
quantum meis præstarent ista, sed ne plumis alienis,  
ut aiunt, decoratus prodirem.

Attamen unum est in quo, pace optimorum viro-  
rum, animum non potui inducere ut in ipsorum verba  
omnino jurarem. In Præfatione ad Comum liber-  
tatem aliquatenus nobis vindicare ausus sum, ut voca-  
bula ex auctoribus Graiis quidem sed inferioris mo-  
netæ, trahere liceret. Idem hodie impetrare velim,  
neque aliis ex magna parte rationibus, qui libenter  
verba, ipsa neutiquam a poetica indole, si quid sentio,  
abhorrentia, in carmen admittenda arbitrer, etsi in  
reliquiis Graiorum poetarum, fractis illis et mutilis,  
quæ solæ ad nos casu quodam pervenerint, non repe-  
riantur. Quæritur, ni fallor, non separatim de Musa

Græca vel Latina. Ecquis vero unquam e nostratibus aut ex Italicis, vetitum sibi vocabulum habuit tantum quia ab alio quodam poeta non ante usurpatum fuerit? Verbum sane elegans et poeticæ dictioni consentaneum est: Plato, Demosthenes, Xenophon, adhibuerunt; sed in paucis istis quæ supersunt Tragœdiis, Æschylus, Sophocles, Euripides, non adhibuerunt. Ideone compertum est nunquam adhibuisse, vel renata non adhibituros fuisse? Iterum, obsecro, animadvertisat judex candidus, quot exstant ἀπαξ λεγόμενα in Græcæ poeseos monumentis.

Denique, diserte mihi hæc sententia proferenda est, licentiam istam qua V. D. Greswell plusquam satis usus est, fingendi prorsus vocabula quæ nusquam apud antiquos inveniuntur, plane intolerabilem esse; neque fines istos unquam egressus sum. Per pauca quidem sunt, quæ huic regulæ videntur solum adversari, re

ipsa non adversata. Cum Æschylus δυσεκλύτως, Sophocles ὑψικόμπως, dixerit, cum et συνεκβάλλω et ἔκβλητος apud probos auctores occurrant, non me νεωτερίζειν opinor, qui vocibus δυσέκλυτος, ὑψικομπός, συνέκβλητος utar: sed longe aliud fecit vir ingeniosus qui nos in hoc ludo antecessit. Profecto, quæ est linguæ copia et facilitas, nihil magis in promptu foret quam Græcè scribere, si hæc nobis venia data esset.





# SAMSON AGONISTES.



fl

R

**SAMSON.**

**MANOAH.**

**DALILA.**

**HARAPHA.**

**OFFICER.**

**MESSENGER.**

**CHORUS OF DANITES.**

**ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.**

**ΜΑΝΩΣ.**

**ΔΗΛΙΔΗ.**

**ΗΡΑΦΑΣ.**

**ΚΗΡΤΞ.**

**ΑΙΓΕΛΟΣ.**

**ΧΟΡΟΣ ΔΑΝΗΤΩΝ.**



## SAMSON AGONISTES.

### SAMSON.



LITTLE onward lend thy guiding hand  
To these dark steps, a little further on;  
For yonder bank hath choice of sun or shade.  
  
There I am wont to sit, when any chance  
Relieves me from my task of servile toil,  
Daily in the common prison else enjoined me;  
Where I, a prisoner chained, scarce freely draw  
The air imprisoned also, close and damp,  
Unwholesome draught. But here I feel amends,  
The breath of heaven fresh blowing, pure and sweet, 10  
With day-spring born; here leave me to respire.  
This day a solemn feast the people hold  
To Dagon their sea-idol, and forbid



## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ ΑΓΩΝΙΣΤΗΣ.

### ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

Σὺ τὸ χειραγωγὸς ὅμματοστερῆ βάσιν  
πρόσω τὸ μοὶ ποίμαινε· τήνδ' ὅχθην κάτα  
ἔστιν τὰ καύματ' ἀνταμείβεσθαι σκιᾶς,  
καὶ δὴ τύχῃ λυθέντα τοῦ καθ' ἡμέραν  
πόνου, κάθησθαι· δουλίαις γὰρ ἄλλοτε  
πέδαις βιασθὲν, κοινὸν εἰληχώς βάρος,  
δύσοσμ', ἐν εὐρώειτι δεσμωτηρίῳ,  
μιάσμαθ' ἔλκω ἔνυπαθόντος ἀέρος.  
ἄλλ' ἐνθάδ' ἀντίμισθον ἥδύπνουν τόδε  
οὐράνιον αὔρας νεογενοῦς ἄημά μοὶ  
ἐωθιναῖς ἀκτῖσι σύμφυτον γάνος  
πάρεστ' ἄχραντον ὡδὸν ἐλινῦσαι θέλω.  
τῷ γὰρ Δάγωνι, τῷ θαλασσίῳ θεῷ,  
ταῦν ἔορτάζοντες οἱ ταύτῃ βροτοὶ

Laborious works—unwillingly this rest  
Their superstition yields me—hence, with leave  
Retiring from the popular noise, I seek  
This unfrequented place to find some ease—  
Ease to the body some, none to the mind  
From restless thoughts, that, like a deadly swarm  
Of hornets armed, no sooner found alone      20  
But rush upon me thronging, and present  
Times past, what once I was, and what am now.  
O, wherefore was my birth from Heaven foretold  
Twice by an Angel? who at last, in sight  
Of both my parents, all in flames ascended  
From off the altar, where an offering burned,  
As in a fiery column charioting  
His godlike presence, and from some great act  
Or benefit revealed to Abraham's race.  
Why was my breeding ordered and prescribed,      30  
As of a person separate to God,  
Designed for great exploits, if I must die  
Betrayed, captived, and both my eyes put out,

δύσοιστον ἀπεκήρυξαν ἐν πόλει κόπον·  
 ἄκουντες οὖν, τὸ θεῖον εὐλαβούμενοι,  
 ἐώσι μ' ὁδε, δημίου κραυγῆς ἅπο,  
 χώραν προσελθεῖν ἄβροτον, ἄμπαυλάν τινα,  
 ἦν πως τύχῃ γε, σώματος κακῶν ἔχειν·  
 οὐ γάρ ποτ' οὐδὲ σμικρὸν ἡ 'ν φρεσὶν δύη  
 λωφᾶν δύναιτ' ἀν, θανασίμων σφηκῶν τρόπον  
 ἐπεγχυθεῖσα τῷδε τῷ παναθλίῳ  
 ἄπαιστος, οἰωθέντι περιτυχοῦσ' ἀεὶ,  
 τὰ δὴ παλαιὰ παραβαλοῦσα τοῖσι νῦν.  
 φεῦ· τι γάρ μεγίστου σεμνὸς ἄγγελος Θεοῦ  
 δισσοῦσι τάμα προῦννεπεν μαυτεύμασι  
 γενέθλι', ἀθρούντοιν δὲ τοῦ γεννητόροιν  
 διφρηλάτης ὡς, πυρφόρῳ καλύμματι  
 ἀγαστὸς, οἶνον οὐ κατ' ἄνθρωπον γεγὼς,  
 ἀπ' ὥρτο βωμοῦ τοῦ καθιερωμένου,  
 εἰ μὴ γέρας τι τοῦ Θεοῦ τῇ πατρὶδι  
 τῇ 'μῇ προδεικνύς; κάμε τῷ Θεῷ τροφοὶ  
 ἔχωρισαν τάξαντες, ὡς ἔργοις ἔπι  
 ῥητοῖσι, μηδὲ τοῦ τυχόντος ἐκτελεῖν,  
 εἰ δὴ πέπρωται παρακεκρουσμένον θανεῖν  
 δοῦλόν τε, δισσῶν τ' δύματων ἀχηνίᾳ.

Made of my enemies the scorn and gaze,  
To grind in brazen fetters under task  
With this Heaven-gifted strength? O glorious strength,  
Put to the labour of a beast, debased  
Lower than bondslave! Promise was that I  
Should Israel from Philistian yoke deliver.  
Ask for this great deliverer now, and find him                  40  
Eyeless in Gaza, at the mill with slaves,  
Himself in bonds under Philistian yoke.  
Yet stay, let me not rashly call in doubt  
Divine prediction. What if all foretold  
Had been fulfilled but through mine own default!  
Whom have I to complain of but myself?  
Who, this high gift of strength committed to me,  
In what part lodged, how easily bereft me,  
Under the seal of silence could not keep,  
But weakly to a woman must reveal it,                  50  
O'ercome with importunity and tears.  
O impotence of mind, in body strong!  
But what is strength without a double share

ἐχθροῖς γέλοιον θαιῦμ'; ἀναγκαίῳ μόρῳ,  
 δεσμοῖς τε χαλκέοισιν, ἔξαντλεῦν πόνον,  
 ἐς τοῦθ' ὑπῆρχε θεόδοτον σθένος τόδε  
 τὸ σεμνότιμον, θηρὸς οὐθητὸς λαχὸν  
 αἰσχιστον ἀξίωμα; τόνδ' ὁρᾶτε με,  
 τὸν τοὺς πολέτας τῶν Φιλιστίνων ἅπο  
 ἐλευθερώσονθ', ἥδε γάρ Θεοῦ φάτις·  
 ὁρᾶτε τὸν σωτῆρα, τῆς σωτηρίας  
 αὐτὸν μάλ' ὑστεροῦντα, χῶν ποτ' ἐκράτει  
 δοῦλον, ταλαιπωροῦντα συνδούλων μέτα,  
 τυφλόν τε, Γάζῃ κάτοχον· ἀλλ' οὐ τὸν Θεὸν  
 ἔστιν παρόντων αἰτιάσασθαι κακῶν,  
 ὃς πάντ' ἔμελλε θεσπίσας καὶ δρᾶν ἔμοι·  
 αὐτὸς δ' ἔμαυτῷ πηγμονὰς ἐφείλκυσα·  
 σθένος γάρ ἦν μοι τόδε παρηγγυημένον·  
 τὸ δ' εὖ μάλ' εἰδὼς οὐπερ ἦν τοῦ σώματος,  
 τό τ' ἐκβαλεῖν πρόχειρον, ἐκβέβληχ' ὅμως,  
 δείξας τὰ δῶρα τάσφαλῶς κεκρυμμένα,  
 κλαυθμῶν ἔκατι καὶ γυναικέον στόνου.  
 φρενῶν κέκομμαι, σῶμα δ' ἔρρωμαι μόνον.  
 τί δ' ἄν τις οὖν ὅνατο τῆς ῥώμης μόνον,  
 ὅγκῳ πελώρῳ περιπεσὼν ἀνωφελεῖ,

Of wisdom? vast, unwieldy, burdensome,  
Proudly secure, yet liable to fall  
By weakest subtleties, not made to rule,  
But to subserve where wisdom bears command.  
God, when he gave me strength, to shew withal  
How slight the gift was, hung it in my hair.  
But peace! I must not quarrel with the will         60  
Of highest dispensation, which herein  
Haply had ends above my reach to know.  
Suffices that to me strength is my bane,  
And proves the source of all my miseries;  
So many and so huge, that each apart  
Would ask a life to wail; but chief of all,  
O loss of sight! of thee I most complain!  
Blind among enemies, O worse than chains,  
Dungeon, or beggary, or decrepit age!  
Light, the prime work of God, to me is extinct,         70  
And all her various objects of delight  
Annulled, which might in part my grief have eased,  
Inferior to the vilest now become  
Of man or worm; the vilest here excel me.

σοφίας γ' ἀμαρτῶν, ἃς ἔδει μάλ' ἐξόχουν;  
 ἐν φπερ ἐδόκουν καὶ μάλ' ἐστηρυγμένος,      60  
 φαύλοισιν αἰσχρῶς ἐσφάλην σοφίσμασι.  
 σθένος γὰρ οὐποτ' ἐν βροτοῦς ἄρχειν ἔφυ,  
 ὑπηρετεῖν δὲ, τῶν σοφῶν ἡγουμένων·  
 πρὸς ταῦθ' ὁ Δαιμων, καὶ διδοὺς τοῖν τέρας,  
 τὰ δῷρ' ἀπηξίωσε μὴ τιμὴν ἔχειν,  
 κόμαις ξυνάψας. ἀλλά μοι σιγᾶν πρέπει,  
 στέργειν τε κρυπτὰ τοῦ Θεοῦ βουλεύματα,  
 τοῦ πάντα ταμιεύοντος ἀρκείτω τόδε·  
 σθένος τόδε ξύμπαντος αἴτιον κακοῦ,  
 τοῦ σφόδρ' ὑπερβάλλοντος, ὥστε πημάτων      70  
 ἔκαστα μηδὲ διαβιοῦν κλαίοντά με  
 ἄλις δύνασθαι· τοῦτο δ' ἔσθ' ὁ δύρομαι,  
 τό μοι κάκιστον, ἡ βλάβη τῶν ὅμμάτων.  
 τυφλὸς παρ' ἔχθροῖς, ἀρα μὴ δεσμῶν πλέω  
 πέπονθ' ἀσιτίας τε καὶ γήρως τάδε;  
 τὰ παρὰ Θεοῦ πρωτεῖα, τὴν αἰγῆν λέγω,  
 δλωλ' ἐμοῦ γ' ἔκατι, χῶν ἀν ἄλλοτε  
 σμικρὸν παρηγόρημα, ποικὶλη χαρᾶ,  
 πόνοις ἀπηρών, ἐκλέλοιπε πανταχοῦ·      80  
 κἀγὼ παρ' ἔρπετ', οὐ γὰρ ἀνθρώπους λέγω,  
 ἄδοξός εἰμ', ἀ καὶ χαμαιπετῆ βλέπει·

They creep, yet see ; I, dark in light, exposed  
To daily fraud, contempt, abuse, and wrong,  
Within doors, or without, still as a fool,  
In power of others, never in my own ;  
Scarce half I seem to live, dead more than half.  
O dark, dark, dark, amid the blaze of noon,  
Irrecoverably dark : total eclipse,  
Without all hope of day !

O first created beam, and thou great word,  
“Let there be light” and light was over all,  
Why am I thus bereaved thy prime decree ?  
The sun to me is dark,  
And silent as the moon,  
When she deserts the night,  
Hid in her vacant interlunar cave.

Since light so necessary is to life,  
And almost life itself—if it be true  
That light is in the soul,  
She all in every part—why was the sight  
To such a tender ball as the eye confined,  
So obvious and so easy to be quenched,  
And not, as feeling, through all parts diffused,  
That she might look at will through every pore ?  
Then had I not been thus exiled from light,  
As in the land of darkness, yet in light,

80

90

έμοι δ' ἀφεγγὲς φέγγος, οὐδ' ἄρ' ὕβρεως  
 ἀτιμίας τε καὶ δόλων καθ' ήμέραν,  
 οἴκοι, θύραζε, μωρὸς ὡς, ἀφίσταμαι,  
 ζῶν ὥδ' ἐπ' ἄλλοις, ήμιθνής κἀν τῷ βίῳ.  
 μεσσημερία λαμπάς, φεῦ, φεῦ,  
 πάντως ἔξελιπ', ἔξελιπ' ἐλπίς·  
 φῶς πρωτόγονου καὶ πάνταρχον  
 τὸ προκηρυχθὲν θεόθεν, φροῦδον·  
 φροῦδος δ' ἥλιος, ώς ὅτε δίας  
 ὅμμα σελήνης ἔξεδρον ἀστρων  
 ἀντροις ἀλαοῖς φέχετ' ἀφωνον,  
 περιτέλλομένων

μηνῶν ἐπὶ καιρὸν ἀμοιβῆς.

ἄλλ' εἴ γε τὸ ζῆν τοῦτ' ἀναγκαῖον τρέφει  
 κἀντάξιον τὸ φῶς, διηκούσης τὸ πᾶν  
 ψυχῆς κάτοικον, πρὸς τί τὰν προῦπτφ τάδε  
 λέλογχε φῶς, εὑβλαπτον, ὁφθαλμῶν ἔδη;  
 ἔδει γὰρ, εἰ δὴ πάντος' αἰσθέσθαι πάρα,  
 καὶ τοῦ βλέποντος σῶμα πανταχοῦ βλέπειν. 100  
 οὐχ ώς τά γε νῦν ἀνὴρ ὕδ' ἔχει,  
 περικυκλούσης ἀποκληρωθεὶς,  
 ώς ἐν νεκρῶν δώμασιν, αὐγῆς.

To live a life half dead, a living death,  
And buried ; but O, yet more miserable !  
Myself my sepulchre, a moving grave ;  
Buried, yet not exempt,  
By privilege of death and burial,  
From worst of other evils, pains and wrongs ;  
But made hereby obnoxious more  
To all the miseries of life,  
Life in captivity  
Among inhuman foes.

But who are these ? for with joint pace I hear  
The tread of many feet steering this way ;  
Perhaps my enemies, who come to stare  
At my affliction, and perhaps to insult,  
Their daily practice to afflict me more.

100

110

**CHORUS.**

This, this is he ; softly a while,  
Let us not break in upon him.  
O change beyond report, thoughts or belief !

κάτι κάκιον, θήκην παρέχων  
 αὐτὸς ἐμαυτῷ σωματοειδῆ,  
     βίον ἐκτρίβων ἀβίωτον·  
 τῶν δὲ θανόντων, οἴλα τε νεκρὸς,  
 γέρας οὐκ ἔλαβον, τῶν πικροτάτης  
     λύμης ἄτης τε λυθέντων·  
 ὃν γ' ἔτι μᾶλλον τῶν πρὶν κατέχει  
 πάντα τὰ θυητοῖς ἀλγεινότατα,  
     στερράι τε πέδαι,  
 παρά τ' ἐχθροῖς θυμὸν ἀθέλκτοις.  
     ἄ, ἄ, ἔα, ἔα,  
 τίνων τοῦτο κοίνῳ πελάζει βαδισμῷ  
 τὸ πλῆθος, ὡς κλύοντά γ' ἔστ' ἐπεικάσαι;  
     ἄρ' ἐχθρῶν στόλος ἀκμήτων,  
 σκοπουμένων με, καὶ γέλωτος οὕνεκα,  
 τὸ σφὺν ξύνηθει, τῶνδ' ἐπ' αὐξήσει κακῶν;

110

120

    οδὸς ἔστι ἀνήρ· ἵχνος δὲ λεπτὸν.  
 τιθῶμεν, ἡκα προσμολόντες·  
 φεῦ τᾶς παρ' ἐλπίδα φθορᾶς ἀπείρου·

See how he lies at random, carelessly diffused,  
With languished head unpropt,  
As one past hope, abandoned,  
And by himself given over,  
In slavish habit, ill-fitted weeds  
O'erworn and soiled.

Or do my eyes misrepresent? Can this be he?  
That heroic, that renowned,  
Irresistible Samson, whom unarmed  
No strength of man, or fiercest wild beast could withstand;  
Who tore the lion, as the lion tears the kid;  
Ran on embattled armies clad in iron,  
And, weaponless himself, 130  
Made arms ridiculous, useless the forgery  
Of brazen shield and spear, the hammered cuirass,  
Chalybean tempered steel, and frock of mail  
Adamantean proof;  
But safest he who stood aloof,  
When insupportably his foot advanced,

ὑράτε δ' εἰκῇ χύδην κείμενον,

κάρα τε νεῦνον ἀμένη-

νου, ἄφιλον ἄλλως δυσέλ-

πιδ' αὐτόγνωτον ὅντ'·

ἀεικεῖ δουλίᾳ

στολῇ τ' ἄλλοτρίᾳ δυσείδης

ἔμοις γοῦν ὅμμασιν πέφανται·

ὅδ' οὖν ὁ Σάμψων, ὁ δὴ παγκρατής,

130

ἀντίτιμος ἡρώων,

ὅς θ' ὑπερέσχ' ἀοπλος

ἄνδρῶν τῶν ὑπεράλλων

θηρῶν τ' ἀγριοθύμων,

ὅς λέοντ' ἔκαν', ὡς λέων ἀβρὸν ἔκτανε μόσχον·

στρατῶν γυμνὸς σιδηροχαρμῶν

ἄμαχος ἐπέσσυτο στίχοισι,

ἔθετο παρ' οὐδὲν ὅπλα χαλκότευκτα,

θώρηκα, ῥαιστῆρος ἔργον, σάκη,

χαλυβδίκ' ἐγχέων στόματ',

ἀδαμαντίνοις θ' ἄμμασι

χιτῶνας συμπαγεῖς.

ἀπελθὼν δ' ἀσφαλής,

τοῦδε ἵλαιδὸν ἐχθρὰ δυσπαλαίστου

140

In scorn of their proud arms and warlike tools,  
Spurned them to death by troops. The bold Ascalonite  
Fled from his lion ramp—old warriors turned  
Their plated backs under his heel,                           140  
Or grovelling soiled their crested helmets in the dust.  
Then with what trivial weapon came to hand,  
The jaw of a dead ass, his sword of bone,  
A thousand foreskins fell, the flower of Palestine,  
In Ramath-lechi, famous to this day.  
Then by main force pulled up, and on his shoulders bore,  
The gates of Azza, post and massy bar,  
Up to the hill by Hebron, seat of giants old,  
No journey of a sabbath-day, and loaded so;  
Like whom the Gentiles feign to bear up heaven.       150  
Which shall I first bewail,  
Thy bondage or lost sight?  
Prison within prison  
Inseparably dark.  
Thou art become—O worst imprisonment!—  
The dungeon of thyself; thy soul  
—Which men enjoying sight oft without cause complain—

καταπατούντος μεγασθενῆ περ,  
ὑπέροπλα· σύχν' ὡς λέοντ' δρμενον

ἔτρεσ' Ἀσκαλωνίτας·

χαλκεόνωτος ἐν μά-

χαις, πτήξας πόδα δεινὸν,

ἔμπειρος πολεμιστὴς

150

πήληχ' ὑψηλοφον κοῦνει περιπεσῶν ἐμόλυνεν.

τὸ δ' αὐθις, ὃν πᾶς πέρι τὰ νῦν θροεῖ,  
τοὺς χιλίους ἐν Ῥαμαιληχίῳ φονεύσας,  
δόνου λαβών σιαγόν', δστινον ξίφος,

ἄωτον ἀπέταμε χθονός·

βίᾳ δὲ πυκνὰς ὥχετ' ἀναφέρων  
πρόρριζον αὐτοῖς πύλας μοχλοῖσι  
σταθμοῖσι τ' Ἀξης, ἐς Ἐθρέαν  
ἔδραν γυγάντων, τὸ δ' οὐ πάρεργον ἦν,  
ἀλλ' ὡς τιν' ἄστρα φασὶ βάρβαροι φέρειν.

160

τιν' οὖν κακῶν κάκιστά σοι;

δεσμῶν πέποιθας πλέω,

δεσμὰ δεσμῶν, ἀμαυρὸς ἀεί·

κλησθεὶς αὐτὸς ἐν αὐτῷ

κακῶν ἔξοχα πάσχει·

εἰσὶν, οἴ γε δεδορκύτες ψυχᾶς δύμα μάταιοι

Imprisoned now indeed,  
In real darkness of the body, dwells,  
Shut up from outward light,                           160  
To incorporate with gloomy night ;  
For inward light, alas !  
Puts forth no visual beam.  
O mirror of our fickle state,  
Since man on earth, unparalleled !  
The rarer thy example stands,  
By how much, from the top of wondrous glory,  
Strongest of mortal men,  
To lowest pitch of abject fortune thou art fallen :  
For him I reckon not in high estate,                   170  
Whom long descent of birth,  
Or the sphere of fortune, raises ;  
But thee whose strength, while virtue was her mate,  
Might have subdued the earth,  
Universally crowned with highest praises.

**SAMSON.**

I hear the sound of words ; their sense the air  
Dissolves unjointed ere it reach my ear.

**CHORUS.**

He speaks, let us draw nigh—Matchless in might,  
The glory late of Israel, now the grief !

κλαιόντος ἀφεγγέες· σὺ δὲ οὐν οὐ μάταν,  
ἔργῳ δύαισιν ἀλααῖς σώματος βιασθεὶς·  
νύκτ' ἐνδέδυκας, φεῦ, διαντάσιν κυέφας·

φρενῶν δὲ φῶς ἀνόμματον·

τοιαῦτ' ἵδεν ἔφυ τάνθρωπινα·  
ὑπερβέβηκας δὲ δόστην τὰ πρόσθεν,

ἀφ' ὑψηπύργων δις ἐκπεσὼν ἐδρῶν  
τανῦν ἐφάνθης ἐπ' ἐσχάτοις τύχας,  
ῥώμαν ἄριστος, οἷος οὐκ ἄλλος, τὸ πρών.

τιμὰν ἐμοῦ γένησιν οὐ λάθοι

γένος παλαιὸν κλυτὸς,

ἢ τροπαῖσιν τύχας προκέψας,

σὺ δὲ, δοξα περιστε-

φῆς ἀνήγαγεν, φέτην ἀντί-

δωκεν ἵς, ἀρετὴν ξύνοικος, βροτῶν βασιλεύειν.

170

180

### ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

ῆκουσα φωνήν· δὲν δὲ ἐσήμηνεν λόγουν,  
ἄναρθρος ἐρρύηκε, πρίν γένηται θυγεῖν.

### ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ἡμᾶς προσελθεῖν, τοῦδε βάζοντος, χρεών.  
φεῦ, φεῦ, κράτιστε, κῦδος Ἐβραιοῖς πάλαι,

We come, thy friends and neighbours not unknown, 180  
From Eshtaol and Zora's fruitful vale,  
To visit or bewail thee: or, if better,  
Counsel or consolation we may bring,  
Salve to thy sores; apt words have power to swage  
The tumours of a troubled mind,  
And are as balm to festered wounds.

*SAMSON.*

Your coming, friends, revives me; for I learn  
Now of my own experience, not by talk,  
How counterfeit a coin they are who friends  
Bear in their superscription,—of the most 190  
I would be understood. In prosperous days  
They swarm, but in adverse withdraw their head,  
Not to be found though sought. Ye see, O friends,  
How many evils have enclosed me round;  
Yet that which was the worst now least afflicts me,  
Blindness: for had I sight, confused with shame,  
How could I once look up, or heave the head?  
Who, like a foolish pilot, have shipwrecked

ιῦν τοῦμπαλιν δακρυτὸς, ἥκομεν σέθεν  
φίλοι τ' ἀπ' οἰκείων τε γείτονες τόπων,  
Ἐσητάλον Ζώρας τε, παμφόρου πέδου,  
σοὶ δηξιθύμων συστενάξοντες πόνων.

ἀλλ' εἴ τι τῶνδε κρενσσόν ἐστι συμβαλεῖν 190  
παρηγοροῦντας ἡ παραινοῦντας, τόδε  
τύχοις ἀν ἡμῶν, βουκολούμενος πάθη.  
ἔστ' εὐεπείᾳ παρακόπους κηλεῖν φρένας,  
ῆλκη τις ὡς ἔθελξεν ἔξημθηκότα.

## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

ζωήν τιν', ύμων μοι προσελθόντων, νέαν  
ξύνοιδα, κιβδήλου δὲ παράσημον τύπου  
κόμμι' ἐγχαραχθὲν οἷς τὰ πλεῦστ' εἶχον φίλοις.  
εὐπραξίαις συχνός τις, ἐν τροπαῖς χρόνων  
ἀπώχετ', οὐδὲ εὔροι τις ἀν μακρῷ πόνῳ.

όρατέ μ', οὐα πάντοθεν πάσχω κακά. 200  
ὁ δ' ἦν κάκιστον, τοῦδ' ἔτ' οὐκ ὥραν ἔχω,  
τῆς τυφλότητος· καὶ γὰρ εἰ βλέπειν παρῆν,  
πῶς ἀν δυναίμην ὁμμάτων ὄρθοστάδην  
ηλήνας ἐπαίρειν, τήνδ' ἔτ' αἰσχύνην ἔχων;  
ὅστις, μάταιος ὡς τις οἰάκοστρόφοις,

My vessel, trusted to me from above,  
Gloriously rigged ; and for a word, a tear,  
Fool, have divulged the secret gift of God  
To a deceitful woman. Tell me, friends,  
Am I not sung and proverbed for a fool  
In every street? do they not say, How well  
Are come upon him his deserts? Yet why?  
Immeasurable strength they might behold  
In me, of wisdom nothing more than mean;  
This with the other should at least have paired,  
These two, proportioned ill, drove me transverse.

200

## CHORUS.

Tax not divine disposal ; wisest men  
Have erred, and by bad women been deceived ;  
And shall again, pretend they ne'er so wise.  
Deject not then so overmuch thyself,  
Who hast of sorrow thy full load besides.  
Yet truth to say, I oft have heard men wonder  
Why thou should'st wed Philistine women rather  
Than of thine own tribe, fairer or as fair,  
At least of thine own nation, and as noble.

210

τὸ καλλίπρωρον θεόδοτον σκάφος τόδε  
βύθοις ἐπόντισ', αἰώλων ἡσσων λόγων  
οἰμωγμάτων τε, κρυπτὸν ἐκ Θεοῦ γέρας  
γυναικοβούλοις ἀποβαλεῖν σοφίσμασιν.  
ἀρ' οὐ γελαστὸς τῶνδ' ἀκούσομαι, φίλοι,210  
ῳδὰς παρασχὼν πᾶσι καὶ παροιμίαν;  
“δράσας ὅδ', ἀντίποια καὶ πάσχει, καλῶς.”  
τί γάρ; σθένος με κάρθ' ὑπερβαλόντ' ίδειν  
ὑπῆρχε, σοφίαν δ' οὐδαμῶς ἵστρόροπον.  
ἔδει γε ταύτην ἀντισηκώσαντ' ἔχειν,  
ἀξυμμέτρω δὲ τώδ' ὄδοιν μ' ἐξήλασται.

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

μὴ δὴ Θεῷ πρέπει σε μέμψασθαι νόμων.  
πταίσαντας ἵσμεν πρὸς γυναικείοις δόλοις  
σοφίαν γε τοὺς μάλιστα προσποιουμένους,  
μέλλουσι δ' αὐθίς· τὴν δ' ἄγαν ἀληγδόνα220  
μὴ προστίθεσθαι τῶν ἐνεστώτων βάρει.  
ὅμως δὲ, ποίαν σκῆψιν οὐδ' Ἐβραϊκὴν  
γάμοις προηροῦ, μὴ τυχῶν ἐμφυλίας,  
τό γ' εὐγενές τε τήν τε πρώθηβον χάριν  
οὐκ ἐλλιποῦσαν τῶν Φιλιστίνων, κόρην,  
θαῦμ' ἔστι κοινὸν, οὐδ' ἀν ἀντείποιμ' ἐγώ.

## SAMSON.

The first I saw at Timna, and she pleased  
Me, not my parents, that I sought to wed  
The daughter of an infidel. They knew not  
That what I motioned was of God ; I knew  
From intimate impulse, and therefore urged  
The marriage on ; that by occasion hence  
I might begin Israel's deliverance,  
The work to which I was divinely called.  
She proving false, the next I took to wife  
O that I never had—fond wish too late !—  
Was in the vale of Sorec, Dalila,  
That specious monster, my accomplished snare.      230  
I thought it lawful from my former act,  
And the same end ; still watching to oppress  
Israel's oppressors. Of what now I suffer  
She was not the prime cause, but I myself,  
Who, vanquished with a peal of words—O weakness !—  
Gave up my fort of silence to a woman.

## CHORUS.

In seeking just occasion to provoke  
The Philistine, thy country's enemy,



## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

Τιμνήτις ἡν μὲν, ἡς τὸ πρῶτον ἡράμην.  
 ἡ δ' οὐκ ἔμελλε τοὺς ἐμοῖσιν ἀνδάνειν  
 τοκεῦσιν, ώς ἄσεπτος, ἀγνοοῦσι δὴ  
 ἐν τοῖσδε μοιρόκραυτον ἐκ Θεοῦ νόμον.      230  
 τὸ δέ αὐτὸς εἰδὼς, τῶν γάμων ἀντειχόμην.  
 ὁρμαῖς φρενῶν γὰρ ἐμφύτοις πέποιθ' ἀεὶ,  
 καὶ τοῖς πολίταις ταῦτα τῆς σωτηρίας  
 προοίμι' εἶναι, θεόθεν ἔργον ἀμφέπων·  
 ἐψευσμένος δὲ τῇσδε, δευτέροις γάμοις  
 τὴν ἐκ Σόρηκος, Δηλίλην, προστηγόμην,  
 τὴν εὐπρόσωπον, θρέμμα μοι δολοπλόκον·  
 ώς ὥφελον δὲ καίριος γνῶναι τόδε·  
 ἔδοξα δ' ὅρθῶς ἀνανεώσασθαι τὰ πρὸν  
 πραχθέντ'· ἀεὶ γὰρ τοῦδε ἐπειρώμην, ὅπως      240  
 τοὺς ἡμὶν ἔχθροὺς ἀντιδρᾶν ἔχοιμι τι.  
 οὐχ ἡ γυνὴ μοι τῶν κακῶν παναπίᾳ,  
 αὐτὸς δέ ἐμαυτῷ, βοῦν ἀπὸ γλώσσης βαλών.  
 θήλεια κραυγὴ κατεπάλαισέ μ' ἐκνόμως.

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ώς αἰὲν ἔχθρὸς τῆς πάτρας ἔχθροῖς γεγὼς,

Thou never wast remiss, I bear thee witness ;  
Yet Israël still serves with all his sons.

240

*SAMSON.*

That fault I take not on me, but transfer  
On Israel's governors, and heads of tribes ;  
Who, seeing those great acts which God had done  
Singly by me against their conquerors,  
Acknowledged not, or not at all considered,  
Deliverance offered. I, on the other side,  
Used no ambition to commend my deeds ;  
The deeds themselves, though mute, spoke loud the doer.  
But they persisted deaf, and would not seem  
To count them things worth notice ; till at length      250  
Their lords the Philistines, with gathered powers,  
Entered Judea seeking me, who then  
Safe to the rock of Etham was retired ;  
Not flying, but forecasting in what place  
To set upon them, what advantaged best.  
Meanwhile the men of Judah, to prevent  
The harass of their land, beset me round,  
I willingly, on some conditions, came  
Into their hands, and they as gladly yielded me  
To the uncircumcised a welcome prey,      260  
Bound with two cords ; but cords to me were threads

λαχών γε καιροῦ, κάμ' ἔχεις ξυμμάρτυρα·  
πάντες δὲ διατελοῦμεν ἐν δεσμοῖς ἔτι.

## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

τήνδ' οὐ ξύνοιδα τὴν βλάβην εἰργασμένος,  
αὐτὸλ δὲ φύλαρχοί τε καὶ δήμου πρόμοι,  
οἱ καὶ μαθόντες τοῦ Θεοῦ ρώμη σθένων      250  
αὐτουργὸς οἱ' ἔδρασα τοὺς ἔχθροὺς πάλαι,  
δώρων ἀπηρνήσαντο μὴ δοῦναι χάριν·  
ἔμοὶ δὲ τάμα γ' οὐχὶ κηρύσσειν ἔδει  
ἔργ', αὐτὰ δ' ἦν μοι μαρτύρων ἀντάξια·  
οἱ δ', ὡς ἔμοι συγάντος, ἡμέλουν ἀεί·  
τέλος δ' ἀθροισθεῖσ' ἡ Φιλιστίνων βία  
δεινῷ διωγμῷ τὴν πάτραν εἰσέρχεται·  
ἐγὼ πέτρᾳ πάρ' Ἡθάμης ἐν ἀσφαλεΐ,  
οὐ δραπέτης ἦ, πολλὰ δ' ἐνθυμούμενος  
πῶς ἀν δυναίμην πρὸς τὸ δεξιώτατον      260  
ἔχθροῖς ἐπελθεῖν· ἐν δὲ τῷδε περιβαλεῖν  
τοῖς ξυννόμοις με, γῆς ἀπειργαθεῖν φθορὰν,  
ἔδοξ· ἐπὶ ρήτοῦσι δ' οὐκ ἄκων παρῇ·  
αὐτὸλ δὲ βαρβάροισιν, ἀσπαστὸν γέρας,  
ἔδοσάν με δισσῶν δεδεμένον σπαρτῶν πλοκαῖς·

Touched with the flame. On their whole host I flew,  
Unarmed, and with a trivial weapon  
Their choicest youth ; they only lived who fled.  
Had Judah that day joined, or one whole tribe,  
They had by this possessed the towers of Gath,  
And lorded over them whom now they serve.  
But what more oft, in nations grown corrupt,  
And by their vices brought to servitude,  
Than to love bondage more than liberty?  
Bondage with ease than strenuous liberty ;  
And to despise, or envy, or suspect  
Whom God hath of his special favour raised  
As their deliverer? if he aught begin  
How frequent to desert him, and at last  
To heap ingratitude on worthiest deeds!

270

## CHORUS.

Thy words to my remembrance bring  
How Succoth and the fort of Penuël  
Their great deliverer contemned  
The matchless Gideon, in pursuit  
Of Midian and her vanquished kings ;  
And how ingrateful Ephraim  
Had dealt with Jephtha—who by argument.

280

τὰ δ' ἡμικαύτους ἥν ἔμοιγ' ἀντίρροπα  
 λίνοις, ἐπεσσύθην τε καὶ γυμνὸς στρατῷ,  
 κάκτεινα, φλαύρους ξιφιδίου δεδραγμένος,  
 ἡβῶσαν ἀκμὴν τῆς πόλεως, μόνον δέ τις  
 φυγὴν ἔσωθη· τῶν δὲ Ἰουδαίων τότε      270  
 ξυνεσβαλόντων, εἴτε καὶ φυλῆς μιᾶς,  
 ἐκτησάμεσθ' ἀν οὓς ἔχει πύργους Γάθη,  
 τούτων κρατοῦντες οἵσι νῦν δουλεύομεν.  
 ἀλλ' οἵς πρόσω βέβηκε τοῦ δήμου φθορὰ,  
 αὐτοί γ' ἔαυτοῖς δουλίαιν ἐπεισφέρειν,  
 θῆσσαν δοκοῦσι πολλάκις ῥᾳθυμίαν  
 σπερροῦ προτιμᾶν τῶν ἐλευθέρων πόνουν.  
 Θεοῦ δὲ ἄριστα δῶρα, τοὺς ἀμύντορας,  
 φθονεῖν ὑποπτεύοντες, ἢ καταφρονεῖν.  
 ἀνθ' ὧν γὰρ εὐ δέδρακε τοιοῦτος, θαμὰ      280  
 μόνωσιν ἀντείληχε κάχαριστίαν.

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ταῦτα σοῦ κλύων Πενύελον Σούκοτον τ' ἐμνησάμην,  
 ὡς ἔθεντ' ἀτημέλητον Γήδεον τὸν παρμέγαν,  
 Μαδίων αὐτοῖς ἄναξι πρὸς φυγὴν τετραμμένων·  
 Ἡφραημῆται δὲ Ἱέπτην, ὧν ἔρεξ' ἀμνήμονες.

Not worse than by his shield and spear,  
Defended Israel from the Ammonite—  
Had not his prowess quelled their pride  
In that sore battle, when so many died,  
Without reprieve adjudged to death,  
For want of well pronouncing Shibboleth.

## SAMSON.

Of such examples add me to the roll.  
Me easily indeed mine may neglect,  
But God's proposed deliverance not so.

290

## CHORUS.

Just are the ways of God,  
And justifiable to men ;  
Unless there be who think not God at all.  
If any be, they walk obscure ;  
For of such doctrine never was there school,  
But the heart of the fool,  
And no man therein doctor but himself.

Yet more there be who doubt his ways not just, 300  
As to his own edicts found contradicting ;  
Then give the reins to wandering thought,

Αμμονῆτας εἴτ' ἐλέγξας εἴτε νικήσας δορὶ,  
κακὰ ποιεῖν ἔμελλον· οἱ δὲ τοῦμπαλιν δεδμημένοι  
ἀθρόοις κλόνοις ἀφύκτου τ' ἔθανον ἐν στάσει δορὸς,  
Σιββόλητον ἀποτυχόντες ὥστε μὴ σκεθρῶς φράσαι.

## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

κάμε δὴ τούτοισι πρόσθεις, τοῖς μὲν οἰκείοις ξένοιν, 290  
τῆς δὲ τοῦ Θεοῦ πρωνοίας οὕποτε σφαλήσομαι.

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

τὰ Δαιμονος θέσφατ' αἰὲν  
ἔνδικ' ἦν, τοῦτ' ἔστι καὶ γνῶναι βροτοῖς,  
πλὴν εἴ τις ἦν τὸ θεῖον ἐς τὸ πᾶν ἀρ-  
-νούμενος μηδὲ γενέσθαι.

τῷ δὲ κατεσβήκασιν οἱ φρειών ὁφ-

-θαλμοὶ, διάγειν τυφλόν·

τὰ δ' οὐκ ἐδιδάξατ' οὐ-

-δεῖς, μὴ οὐ καθ' αὐτὸν αὐτοδιδακτος φρενόπληκτός τ' ὡν,  
κούξυμμετόχον λάβε τάσδε παιδείας. 300  
πλείους δ' ἔτλησαν παρανόμων

Δαιμον' ὧν ἔδρασεν, ώς αὐτοῦ παρὲκ  
θεσμοὺς, γράφεσθαι, νοῖν ἀδέσποτον πλατ-  
-νώμενοι, ἐλασσωθέντες

Regardless of his glory's diminution ;  
Till, by their own perplexities involved,  
They ravel more, still less resolved,  
But never find self-satisfying solution.

As if they would confine the Interminable,  
And tie him to his own prescript,  
Who made our laws to bind us, not himself,  
And hath full right to exempt  
Whom so it pleases him by choice  
From national obstriction, without taint  
Of sin or legal debt ;  
For with his own laws he can best dispense.

He would not else, who never wanted means,  
Nor in respect of the enemy just cause  
To set his people free,  
Have prompted this heroic Nazarite,  
Against his vow of strictest purity,  
To seek in marriage that fallacious bride,  
Unclean, unchaste.

310

320

Θεοῦ ἀμνήμονες· ἐν δὲ τῷ τελευτᾶν  
 ἀμηχανίας περι-  
 -πλοκαῖς ἀπόροισιν αὐ-  
 -τοὶ δεινὸν ἐμπεπλεγμένοι, εἰσαεὶ αὐταρκείας  
 ἀπέτυχον· ἀργὸς κατέχει νιν ἀσάφεια,  
 σχολῆ τὸν ἀπέιρον' αὐτὸν  
 αὐτὸς οἰς ἐψήφισεν 310  
 εὑρέξοντας, ὃς οὐ καθ' αὐτοῦ  
 θέσμ' ἔθηκε τοῖς βροτοῖς·  
 παρὸν τὸν ἀεὶ δοκοῦνθ' οἱ,  
 ως ἄγος λύοντι τῷ,  
 ἐλευθεροῦν ποθ', οἰς πέφυκε, δεσμῶν.  
 πῶς, ὅς γ' ἐκύρωσ', αὐτὸς οὐ  
 κάριστ' ἀναιρεῖν ἀν δύναιτο ταῦτά;  
 πρόχειρον δὲν τῷ Θεῷ  
 θέλοντι, πρός τ' ἐχθρῶν δίκαιον, 320  
 τὴν πόλιν σώζειν, ὅμως τὸν γεννάδαν  
 ὑποσχόμενόν περ  
 βίον ἀγνότατον διακῆν,  
 ἀνοσίων δόλῳ γάμων  
 ὥτρυν· ἀγάμων μιγῆναι.  
 πρὸς ταῦτα ματαιόκομπα

Down reason then, at least vain reasonings down,  
Though reason here aver  
That moral verdict quits her of unclean :  
Unchaste was subsequent, her stain not his.

But see ! here comes thy reverend sire  
With careful step, locks white as down,  
Old Manoah. Advise  
Forthwith, how thou oughtest to receive him.

**SAMSON.**

Ay me ! another inward grief, awaked  
With mention of that name, renews the assault.

330

**MANOAH.**

Brethren and men of Dan—for such ye seem,  
Though in this uncouth place—if old respect,  
As I suppose, toward your once-gloried friend,  
My son, now captive, hither hath informed

χαιρέτω σοφίσματα,  
 μή νυν ἀ λογισμὸς ὁρθῶς  
 τῶνδ' ὑπερ καθίσταται·  
 τὸ γοῦν ἐπιεικὲς, ἔξα-  
 -γιστος ἥδ' ἐν τῷ γαμεῖν  
 οὐχ, ὑστερον δ', ὡν οὐ μετεῖχεν ἀνήρ.  
 ἀλλ', εἰσορὼ γὰρ τὸν γεραι-  
 -ὸν, δεῦρο προστείχουτα, σεμνότιμον,  
 λευκότριχ' ἥδη, σὲ τὸν  
 φύσαντα, Μάνων, ἀσφάλειαν  
 εὐ ποδῶν τηροῦντα, νῦν τοῦτον φρόνει  
 πῶς δεῖ σε δέχεσθαι.

330

## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

φεῦ τῆσδε φωνῆς· ως διανταῖαν τάλας  
 πληγὴν πέπληγμαι, δευτέραν οὐτασμένος. 340

## ΜΑΝΩΣ.

φίλοι Δάνητες, οἴα γοῦν δοκεῖν ἐμοὶ,  
 καίπερ δυσταύλῳ ξυντυχόντες ἐν τόπῳ,  
 εἰ τοῦ πρὸν οὔνεχ', ως ἐπεικάσαι, κλέους,  
 ὃ θητικῆς ἡμειψεν αἰκίας τὰ νῦν,  
 ἐμοῦ γεραιὰν ὑστερήσαντος βάσιν,

Your younger feet, while mine cast back with age  
Came lagging after—say if he be here.

## CHORUS.

As signal now in low dejected state,  
As erst in highest, behold him where he lies.

## MANOAH.

O miserable change! Is this the man?                           340  
That invincible Samson, far renowned,  
The dread of Israel's foes, who with a strength  
Equivalent to Angels' walked their streets,  
None offering fight; who single combatant  
Duelled their armies ranked in proud array,  
Himself an army, now unequal match  
To save himself against a coward armed  
At one spear's length. O ever-failing trust  
In mortal strength! and O, what not in man  
Deceivable and vain? Nay, what thing good                   350  
Prayed for, but often proves our woe, our bane?  
I prayed for children, and thought barrenness  
In wedlock a reproach; I gained a son,  
And such a son as all men hailed me happy.

δεῦρ' ἥλθεθ' ἀδρῶν ἐν ποδωκείᾳ μελῶν,  
τὸν νιὸν εἴπατ' εἰ πάρεστιν ἐνθάδε,

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

οῖος μὲν ἦν, θαιμαστὸς, ἐν τύχης ἀκμῇ,  
τοιόσδε τῷ νῦν ἐστ' ἴδεν κακουχίᾳ.

## ΜΑΝΩΣ.

φεῦ τῆς ἐλευνῆς τοῦδ', ἀνικήτου τὸ πρὶν,      350  
φθορᾶς· ὅδ' οὖν ὁ περιβόητος, ὃν πάλαι  
ἐχθρὸν παρ' αὐτοῖς περιπολοῦντα πανταχοῦ  
ἰπεξέφευγον ὡς θεοῖς ἵστρόπον;  
σμερδὺν μόνος δ' ἀντεῖχεν εὐτάκτῳ στρατῷ,  
ἀντὶ στρατοῦ γάρ αὐτὸς ἦν· τοῦτον δὲ νῦν  
καὶ δειλὸς ἐλθὼν ἐν διαστάσει δορὸς  
κατεργάσαιτ' ἄν· οὐ γάρ ἀνθρώπων σθένει  
οὐδεὶς πεποιθὼς ἕκετο σκοπόν ποτε·  
πάντη γάρ ἐστι δολοπλόκου ψεύδους πλέα  
βρότεια πράγματ' ἔρχεται συχνὸν κακὰ      360  
αὐτῶν μάτην ὡν ηὐξάμεσθ' ἐπηβόλοις.  
ἔγω μὲν ὅτουν τὸν Θεὸν παίδων σπορὰν,  
ἀτεκνίαν γάρ ὡς ὅνειδος φόμην·  
τυχῶν δ', ἔδοξα πᾶσιν ἀλβιώτατος·

Who would be now a father in my stead?  
Oh, wherefore did God grant me my request,  
And as a blessing with such pomp adorned?  
Why are his gifts desirable, to tempt  
Our earnest prayers, then, given with solemn hand  
As graces, draw a scorpion's tail behind?                   360  
For this did the Angel twice descend? for this  
Ordained thy nurture holy? as of a plant  
Select and sacred, glorious for a while,  
The miracle of men; then in an hour  
Ensnared, assaulted, overcome, led bound,  
Thy foes' derision, captive, poor, and blind,  
Into a dungeon thrust, to work with slaves.  
Alas! methinks whom God hath chosen once  
To worthiest deeds, if he through frailty err,  
He should not so o'erwhelm, and as a thrall                   370  
Subject him to so foul indignities;  
Be it but for honour's sake of former deeds.

**SAMSON.**

Appoint not heavenly disposition, father.  
Nothing of all these evils hath befallen me

νῦν τοῦδε τάνδρὸς τήνδε τὴν παιδουργίαν  
 ἔκαν τίς ἀν ποτ' ἀντιδέξασθαι θέλοι;  
 ὡς ἄφελον δὲ μῆποτ' ἐκ Θεοῦ τόδε  
 δώροις ἀγαστὸν ἀφθόνοις εἰληφέναι·  
 σπουδῇ μὲν ὥπασ', ὃν ἐνīκ' ὁξὺν πόθον·  
 λαβόντα δ', οὐα σκορπίου κέντρον, δάκνει.      370  
 τοῦδ' οὖνεκ' ἡξιώσαθ' ἄγγελος Θεοῦ  
 καὶ δὶς κατελθεῖν, ἐκκρίτοις θ' οἷον φυτοῖς  
 ἔθη καθιέρωσε σοὶ, τὰ παιδικὰ,  
 ὅθεν τέθηλας ἡμὶν εἰς βραχὺν χρόνον  
 θαυμαστὸς ἀνδρῶν· εἶτα κὰν βαιῷ ῥοπῇ  
 δόλοισιν αἰχμάλωτον, ἐχθροῖσιν γέλων  
 οἱ κατεπάλαισαν σ', δύματ' ἐστερημένον  
 δοῦλόν τε, πάντων τ' ἀπορἴᾳ, θητῶν μέτα  
 πόνοις ταλαιπωροῦντα, τοιοῦτόν σ' ὄρῳ.  
 ἀλλ' ὅν γ' ἐπ' ἄκροις ἐξέλεξ' ἔργοις Θεὸς,      380  
 εὶ καὶ βρότειον ἔπαθεν, αἰκίᾳ τόσῃ  
 πρόρριζον οὐκ ἔδει νιν αἰσχίστη πεσεῖν,  
 κλέους γ' ἔκατι τῶν πάρος πεπραγμένων.

## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

μὴ τὰκ Θεοῦ τυχόντα μέμψασθαι, πάτερ.  
 οὐκ ἐστιν οὐδὲν ταισὶδ' ἐν δύαις ἐμοὶ

But justly; I myself have brought them on,  
Sole author I, sole cause. If aught seem vile,  
As vile hath been my folly, who have profaned  
The mystery of God, given me under pledge  
Of vow, and have betrayed it to a woman,  
A Canaanite, my faithless enemy.

380

This well I knew, nor was at all surprised,  
But warned by oft experience. Did not she  
Of Timna first betray me? and reveal  
The secret wrested from me in her highth  
Of nuptial love professed, carrying it straight  
To them who had corrupted her, my spies  
And rivals? In this other was there found  
More faith, who also in her prime of love,  
Spousal embraces, vitiated with gold,  
Though offered only, by the scent conceived      390  
Her spurious first-born, treason against me?  
Thrice she assayed, with flattering prayers and sighs  
And amorous reproaches, to win from me

ὅ μὴ κακουργῶν μόνος ἐμηχανησάμην,  
αὐτόσσυντον πῆμ', ἐνδίκῳ παθήματι.  
τί δ' αἰσχρὸν, εἰ μὴ τούκ Θεοῦ δοθὲν σθένος  
ἐφ' φτε κρυπτὸν ἀσφαλῶς σώζειν ἀεὶ,  
ῥῦψαι διαφθείραντ', ἀβελτέρῳ φρενί;  
παρ' οὐ προδόντος ἔμαθε βάρβαρος γυνὴ,  
ἔχθροξενόν μοι κάπατήλιον κάρα.  
οὐδὲ ἡν ἀπροσδόκητα, προύσήμαινε γὰρ  
τὰ πολλὰ πρὶν πραχθέντα· τοιοῦτον πάλαι  
ἔτλη τὸ Τίμυνης θρέμμα, πρώταρχος δόλων.  
ἡ γὰρ τὰ κρυπτὰ παρατεθέντ', ἔρωτ' ἐπεὶ  
ἔψεύσατ' αἰνόλεκτρος, ἐν σμικρῷ χρόνῳ  
τοῖς ἀνταγωνισταῖς τε καὶ σκοποῖς ἐμρῦ,  
αὐτὴν παρεκτρέψασιν, ἀρπάσασά μου  
μετέδωκεν· οὐδὲ ἄμεμπτος ἡτέρα δοκεῖ,  
ἢ κανὸν ἀπαρχαῖς εὐφιλῶν υμφευμάτων  
πρωτόσπορον τι κῦμα, δυσγενὲς τέκος,  
αὔρας πνοαῖσι παρανόμως ἐγείνατο,  
φενακίσασά μ'. ἀργυρώνητος μάτην,  
δῶρον προτεινάντων γὰρ οὐκ ἐδέξατο.  
τρίς μου, λιταῖς σαίνουσα καὶ πολλῷ στόνῳ  
πλάσασ' ἔρωτα, τὸν μάλ' ἄρρητον λόγου·

My capital secret, in what part my strength  
Lay stored, in what part summed, that she might know ;  
Thrice I deluded her, and turned to sport  
Her importunity, each time perceiving  
How openly, and with what impudence,  
She purposed to betray me, and—which was worse  
Than undissembled hate—with what contempt        400  
She sought to make me traitor to myself.  
Yet the fourth time, when, mustering all her wiles,  
With blandished parlies, feminine assaults,  
Tongue-batteries, she surceased not day nor night  
To storm me over-watched, and wearied out,  
At times when men seek most repose and rest,  
I yielded, and unlocked her all my heart,  
Who, with a grain of manhood well resolved,  
Might easily have shook off all her snares ;  
But foul effeminacy held me yoked        410  
Her bond-slave. O indignity ! O blot  
To honour and religion ! servile mind  
Rewarded well with servile punishment !  
The base degree to which I now am fallen,  
These rage, this grinding is not yet so base,

ὅπου τὸ θησαυρισθὲν ἐνναίοι σθένος,  
 ὑπεξέκλεπτεν· ἀντιμηχανωμένου δ'  
 ἐμοῦ, τρὶς ὕβριν τοῦ μ' ἐνοχλοῦντος τρόπου 410  
 ἀπηγρατ', ως καὶ δῆλος ἦν ἐκάστοτε  
 τόνδ' ἄνδρ' ἐνεδρεύοντας, ἀναίσχυντον στόμα·  
 καὶ πρὸς, σφαλῆναι τοὺς ἐμοῖς αὐτὸν λόγοις  
 παρῆγε με σκώπτουσα· τοιαύτης ἔγῳ  
 προειλόμην ἀν ἵτις ἐκ προῦπτου στιγμοῖ.  
 τέλος δ', ἐπεὶ στόμαργος ἥθροισεν δόλους,  
 γυναικοβούλων τ' ἐμβολαῖς προσφθεγμάτων  
 ἐπέκειτο πάνυυχός τε καὶ πανήμερος  
 ἥδη καμόντι καὶ κατ' ἄνθρωπον πόνων  
 ἄμπαυλαν ἀμφέποντι καὶ λήθην κακῶν 420  
 εἰξας ἔδειξα τὰν φρεσὶν κεκρυμμένα.  
 ἀλλ' εἴ γε καὶ πολλοστὸν ἀνδρείας παρῆν,  
 ἔμοιγ' ἀμοχθὶ καταγέλαστος φχετ' ἄν.  
 ἀνθ' ὁν ἀεικὲς γῆνεσ', οἷα θηλύνυους,  
 ξυγὸν γυναικὸς, οὐδ' ἔτ' ἐκφεύγειν ἐνῆν,  
 Θεοῦ τ' δνειδος, τοῦ τ' ἐν ἀνθρώποις κλέους.  
 φρονῶν τὰ δούλων, δουλίαν ἐκτησάμην.  
 προῦχει δὲ τῆς νῦν ἡ πάροιθεν αἰσχρότης,  
 εἰ καὶ ῥακῶδες εἶμα καὶ στερβὸν πόνον

As was my former servitude, ignoble,  
Unmanly, ignominious, infamous,  
True slavery, and that blindness worse than this,  
That saw not how degenerately I served.

## MANOAH.

I cannot praise thy marriage choices, son,      420  
Rather approved them not; but thou didst plead  
Divine impulsion prompting how thou mightest  
Find some occasion to infest our foes.  
I state not that; this I am sure, our foes  
Found soon occasion thereby to make thee  
Their captive, and their triumph; thou the sooner  
Temptation foundest, or over-potent charms,  
To violate the sacred trust of silence  
Deposited within thee; which to have kept  
Tacit, was in thy power: true; and thou bearest      430  
Enough, and more, the burden of that fault;  
Bitterly hast thou paid, and still art paying,  
That rigid score; a worse thing yet remains.  
This day the Philistines a popular feast  
Here celebrate in Gaza; and proclaim  
Great pomp, and sacrifice, and praises loud,  
To Dagon, as their god, who hath delivered

εῖληχ· ἐπεὶ βάναυσον, οὐδὲ ἐν ἀνδράσι 430  
 πρέποντα, δυσκλεᾶ τε, τὸν τὸ πρὸν χρόνον  
 σαφῶς ξύνοιδ' ἄτιμος ἐκτρίψας βίου,  
 καὶ σφόδρα δοῦλος καὶ πλέον τοῦ νῦν τυφλός·  
 γένος γὰρ ἡτίμαζον, οὐδὲ ἔγνων τόδε.

## ΜΑΝΩΣ.

ῳ τέκνουν, οὐδὲ ἔμοιγ' ἐπαινετὸς δοκεῖ,  
 μᾶλλον δ' ἀηδῆς, σῶν γάμων προαιρεσίς·  
 σὺ δ', ὡς ἐπ' ἔχθροὺς θεόθεν, εἰ τλαιής τάδε,  
 σχήσων ἀφορμὴν, πρόφασιν ἐσκήψω λέχη·  
 ἀλλ' οὐ, τόδ' εἰπών, ἔμ' ἀν ἔχοις ξυμμάρτυρα.  
 τοσοῦτον οἰδα· καίρι' ἦν αὐτοῖς τάδε, 440  
 σοί γ' αἰχμαλώτῳ γαυριάν· αὐτὸν δέ σε  
 καὶ θάσσον ἐκ τῶν δυσγάμων ὁμιλιῶν,  
 ὑπερβιασθέντ' εὐθέτοις μαγεύμασι  
 σιγὴν προδοῦναι, σοὶ Θεοῦ πιστὸν γέρας,  
 ἔξδυν φυλάσσειν· οἱ δὲ τῆσδε ἀμαρτίας  
 πικρὸν μάλ' ἐκπράσσουσι σ' ἐς τὰ νῦν χρέος,  
 πλέον γε τοῦ δέοντος· αἰσχίω δ' ἔτι  
 παραυτίκ' ἔσται, τῷν Φιλιστίνων ὑπο  
 κοινὴν ἑορτὴν ἐν πόλει ποιουμένων.  
 τῷ γὰρ Δάγωνι, τῆσδε τῆς χώρας θεῷ, 450

Thee, Samson, bound and blind into their hands,  
Them out of thine, who slewest them many a slain.  
So Dagon shall be magnified, and God,                  440  
Beside whom is no god, compared with idols,  
Disglorified, blasphemed, and had in scorn,  
By the idolatrous rout amidst their wine;  
Which to have come to pass by means of thee,  
Samson, of all thy sufferings think the heaviest,  
Of all reproach the most with shame that ever  
Could have befallen thee and thy father's house.

SAMSON,

Father, I do acknowledge and confess  
That I this honour, I this pomp have brought  
To Dagon, and advanced his praises high                  450  
Among the Heathen round; to God have brought  
Dishonour, obloquy, and oped the mouths  
Of idolists and atheists; have brought scandal  
To Israel, diffidence of God, and doubt  
In feeble hearts, propense enough before  
To waver, or fall off and join with idols;  
Which is my chief affliction, shame and sorrow,  
The anguish of my soul, that suffers not

σεμνῷ θυηπολοῦντες ὑμνοῦσιν χορῷ,  
 ἐπεὶ σὲ, τὸν Σάμψωνα, τὸν πολυκτόνον,  
 τυφλὸν τε δέσμιόν τε τῶν ἔχθρῶν λόχοις  
 ἐγχειρίσας ἔδωκε, κᾶσωσεν πόλιν.  
 ὄνομα μὲν οὖν Δάγωνος ἔξαρθήσεται·  
 Θεοῦ δ' ἀκοινώητον αἰσχυνεῖ σέβας,  
 ταῖς χειροκμήτοις παραβαλάν νιν εἴκόσιν,  
 οἰνοπλάνητος συρφετὸς θεοστυγής.  
 σὺ δ' αὖ τοσούτων αἴτιος γεγὼς κακῶν,  
 σαύτὸν μέγιστον ἵσθι πῆμ' εἰργασμένος      460  
 ἡμᾶς τ' ὅνειδος, ὃν ποτ' ἀν τυχεῖν παρῆν.

## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

πάτερ, ξυνήγορόν με τοῖς λόγοις ἔχεις,  
 αὐτὸν πορόντα τῷ Δάγωνι τιμίαν  
 δόξαν παρ' ἀστοῖς, ἐν τε γείτοσιν κλέος·  
 ἐμοῦ δ' ἔκατι λοιδορούμενοι Θεῷ,  
 αὐτοὶ ματαίων ψευδοκήρυκες θεῶν,  
 γελῶσι· πρὸς δὲ τοῦσδε παγκακῶς κλύειν  
 καὶ τοὺς πολίτας, ὅστε διαβαλεῖν Θεὸν  
 τοὺς καὶ πάροιθε δειλίᾳ δεδμημένους,  
 ἀντ' εὐσεβοῦντων δυσσεβοῦντας· οἷς ἐγὼ      470  
 αἰσχύνομαι μάλιστα, κάποδύρομαι,

Mine eye to harbour sleep, or thoughts to rest  
This only hope relieves me, that the strife        460  
With me hath end; all the contest is now  
Twixt God and Dagon. Dagon hath presumed,  
Me overthrown, to enter lists with God,  
His deity comparing and preferring  
Before the God of Abraham: He, be sure,  
Will not connive or linger, thus provoked,  
But will arise, and his great name assert.  
Dagon must stoop, and shall ere long receive  
Such a discomfit, as shall quite despoil him  
Of all these boasted trophies won on me,        470  
And with confusion blank his worshippers.

**MANOAH.**

With cause this hope relieves thee, and these words  
I as a prophecy receive, for God—  
Nothing more certain—will not long defer  
To vindicate the glory of his name  
Against all competition, nor will long  
Endure it doubtful whether God be Lord,  
Or Dagon. But for thee what shall be done?

νύκτωρ ἀνπνος, φρενομανὴς καθ' ἡμέραν.  
οὐδὲ ἐστὶν εἰ μὴ τοῦτο θέλγητρον κακῶν,  
ἔμ' ἔξαμιλληθέντα τῆς μάχης, μόνοιν  
Θεῷ τε καὶ Δάγωνι παραδεδωκέναι.

τῷ Πατρίῳ γάρ ἀνταγωνίστην Θεῷ  
τλὰς οὗτος, ὃς ἔμουγε κειμένου σαφῶς,  
αὐτὸν παρασχεῖν, θειότητος ἔξόχων  
ἀρέξατ' ἄθλων τοῦτο δὲ ἐμπεδον λέγω,  
τὸν Δαιμονὸν οὕτε χρόνιον οὔτ' ὥρας ἄτερ 480  
δείξειν ἀναστάνθ' οἷος ὑβρίσθη Θεός·  
κείνῳ δὲ ὑπεικτέον τε, χῶν ἀφήρπασε  
πάντων τροπαίων γάνος ἀφαιρεθήσεται·  
φόβον δὲ ἀμείψουστ' οἴ νιν ὕμνησαν τὸ πρίν.

## ΜΑΝΩΣ.

ἀληθόμαντιν ἐλπίδ', ἢ σ' ἐκούφισεν,  
ὡς παῖ, δέδεγμαι, διὰ τάχους πεπεισμένος  
ἴδιον σέβας τηροῦντι καὶ κράτος Θεῷ,  
ὅστις ποτ' ἀν νῦν ἀνθαμιλλάσθαι θέλῃ·  
οὐδὲ ἀμφιλέκτους, διὸ Δάγων ἀνθάπτεται,  
θρόνους ἔάσει· σοῦ δὲ ὑπερ τί δεῖ ποιεῖν 490  
ἐν τῷ μεταξὺ τῶνδ', ἀ προῦγυνωκας, χρόνῳ;

Thou must not in the mean while, here forgot,  
Lie in this miserable loathsome plight,                  480  
Neglected. I already have made way  
To some Philistine lords, with whom to treat  
About thy ransom: well they may by this  
Have satisfied their utmost of revenge,  
By pains and slaveries, worse than death, inflicted  
On thee, who now no more canst do them harm.

*SAMSON.*

Spare that proposal, father, spare the trouble  
Of that solicitation: let me here,  
As I deserve, pay on my punishment ;  
And expiate, if possible, my crime,                  490  
Shameful garrulity. To have revealed  
Secrets of men, the secrets of a friend,  
How heinous had the fact been, how deserving  
Contempt and scorn of all, to be excluded  
All friendship, and avoided as a blab,  
The mark of fool set on his front ! But I  
God's counsel have not kept, his holy secret  
Presumptuously have published, impiously,  
Weakly at least and shamefully—a sin

οὐ γὰρ θέμις, λαθόντα καὶ φίλων ἄτερ,  
κεῖσθαι πινώδους ἐν δύαις ἀλγηδόνοις.  
πρὸς ταῦτ' ἔγωγε τῶν Φιλιστίνων τισὸν  
ἥδη ξυνῆλθον, τῶν λύτρων τῶν σῶν πέρι  
σπονδὰς προτείνων· καὶ γὰρ οὖν αὐτοὺς πάλαι  
δεῖ τῶν ἀπλήστων σῶν κορεσθῆναι κάκων,  
τοῦ μηκέτ' ἀνθέξοντος, ἐν δεσμῶν πέδαις,  
ἐχθρῶν ἐφορμαῖς.

## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

μὴ σύ γ' ἐν τούτοις, πάτερ,  
κάμης· ἀχρείων δεῖ σ' ἀποσχέσθαι λιτῶν, 500  
ἐμοῦνγε τὸν δίκαιον ἀντλοῦντος πόνου,  
ἀσχήμονός μοι ζημίαν γλωσσαλγίας.  
καὶ γὰρ φίλου ποτ' ἀνδρὸς ἀτλητού δοκεῖ  
λόγους προδοῦναι τοὺς παρηγγυημένους,  
τῶν δ' οὐνεκ' ἐκπίπτει τε καὶ πάντων ὅπο  
ἀπαξιοῦται μὴ οὐχ ἐταιρείας τυχεῖν  
ὅ ταῦτα δράσας, μωρίαν ἐστιγμένος,  
καὶ φευκτὸς, ἀθυρόγλωσσος ὡς, ἐν ἀνδράσι·  
Θεοῦ δ' ἐγὼ βούλευμα κᾶρρητον γέρας  
ἔρριψ' ἀναιδῆς, ἄθεος, εἰ δὲ μὴ, φρενῶν  
ἐν ἀσθενείᾳ, καταγέλαστος ἐν πόλει. 510

That Gentiles in their parables condemn  
To their abyss and horrid pains confined.

500

**MANOAH.**

Be penitent, and for thy fault contrite,  
But act not in thy own affliction, son.  
Repent the sin, but if the punishment  
Thou canst avoid, self-preservation bids ;  
Or the execution leave to high disposal,  
And let another hand, not thine, exact  
Thy penal forfeit from thyself. Perhaps  
God will relent, and quit thee all his debt ;  
Who ever more approves and more accepts      510  
(Best pleased with humble and filial submission)  
Him who, imploring mercy, sues for life,  
Than who, self-rigorous, chooses death as due ;  
Which argues over-just, and self-displeased  
For self-offence, more than for God offended.  
Reject not then what offered means. Who knows  
But God hath set before us to return thee  
Home to thy country and his sacred house,

καὶ βάρβαροι δὲ νερτέροισιν ἐν βύθοις  
πέδας τε πολυδάκρυτά τ' ἀθλῆσαι πάθη  
τοιούσδε ἔκριναν, μυθοποιοῦντες καλῶς.

## ΜΑΝΩΣ.

κλαίειν πρέπει γὰρ οἰσιν ἥμαρτες, τέκνουν,  
ἀλλ' οὐ τὰ σαυτοῦ πήματ' αὐτὸν ἐκτελεῖν·  
ταῦτα στενάξειν ἔστι, τὴν δὲ ὀπισθόπουν  
δίκην ἀλλύξας, σαυτὸν ἀν σώζοις· καλῶς·  
ἢ τῷ μέδοντι τήνδε τὴν ποινὴν ἔα,  
μηδὲ αὐτόχειρ, δράσας περ, ἐν μέρει πάθης. 520  
τί δῆθ'; ὁ Δαιμων πᾶν τόδε ἀν χρέος πρόφρων  
τάχ' ἀν μεθείη, κάρτ' ἐν εὔνοίᾳ τρέφων  
νοῦν τὸν ταπεινὸν, οἷος ἐν παισὶν πρέπει·  
οὐδὲ ἀν προείλεθ' ὃς δίκην αὐτοκτόνος  
ὑπερθορῷν ἀπέθανε, τόνδε δὲ ὃς Θεὸν  
τὸ ζῆν παραιτησάμενος ἀπέλαβεν λιταῖς.  
κεῖνος γὰρ αὐτοῦ μᾶλλον ἡ Θεοῦ βλάβας  
ἔτισεν αὐτόκλητος· ἀσμενος μὲν οὖν  
δέχου τὰ σοὶ προκείμεν', ὡς ἡμῖν ἵσως  
Θεοῦ τόδε ἐπιτρέψαντος, εἰς πόλιν σὲ σὴν 530  
ἀγειν κατελθόνθ', ιερὸν εἰς ναοῦ βάθρον.

Where thou mayest bring thy offerings, to avert  
His further ire, with prayers and vows renewed?

520

*SAMSON.*

His pardon I implore; but as for life,  
To what end should I seek it? when in strength  
All mortals I excelled, and great in hopes,  
With youthful courage, and magnanimous thoughts  
Of birth from Heaven foretold, and high exploits,  
Full of divine instinct, after some proof  
Of acts indeed heroic, far beyond  
The sons of Anak, famous now and blazed,  
Fearless of danger, like a petty god  
I walked about, admired of all and dreaded  
On hostile ground, none daring my affront.  
Then, swollen with pride, into the snare I fell  
Of fair fallacious looks, venereal trains,  
Softened with pleasure and voluptuous life;  
At length to lay my head and hallowed pledge  
Of all my strength in the lascivious lap  
Of a deceitful concubine, who shone me  
Like a tame wether, all my precious fleece,  
Then turned me out ridiculous, despoiled,  
Shaven, and disarmed among mine enemies.

530

540

ἢπου σε προστρόπαιον ἔξεσται πάλιν  
δεινὸν λιταῖσιν ἀποκαθίρασθαι κότον.

## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

ξύμφημι καντὸς, ὥστε συγγνώμης τυχεῖν  
οὐχ, ὥστ' ἀκερδὲς ζῆν· ἐπεὶ νέος πάλαι  
πάντων προεύχον σώματος ῥώμη βροτῶν,  
θράσει τε μεγαλόθυμος ἡβώσης φρενὸς,  
γεγώς τ' ἀριστεύων τε πρόγνοντος Θεοῦ,  
ἔδειξε κλεινῷν Ἀνακιδῶν ὑπέρτερα  
ἔργ', οἰον ἥρως, ἐνθέψει ψυχῆς μένει·                   540  
ώς γὰρ θεός τις, ὡς γ' ἐν ἀνθρώποις δοκεῖν,  
ἀφοβος ἐφοίτων, περιβόητος, οὐδὲ ἔτλη  
οὐδεὶς μ' ὑβρίζων κερτομεῖν, ἐχθρός περ ὅν.  
ἀλλ' εὐπροσώπου δολοφόνοις μαγεύμασιν  
ἔρωτος ἡδονῆς τε περιπεσών πάγαις,  
τρυφῆ τ' ἀχρείᾳ καρδίας τ' ὅγκῳ σφριγῶν,  
ὅσιόν τε κράτα καὶ σθένους ἐχέγγυον  
ἐν τῆς ἀπίστου παλλακῆς κόλποις φόβην  
ρίψας, τὸ πᾶν ἀπώλεσ' εὔμαλλον γάνος,  
οἷος κτιλος τις τιθασὸς ἀποκεκαρμένος.                   550  
δράσασα δ', ἐχθροῖς αὐτίχ' ἥδ' ἔδωκέ με,  
γυμνόν τε καὶ γελαστὸν ἔξεωσμένον.

## CHORUS.

Desire of wine and all delicious drinks,  
Which many a famous warrior overturns,  
Thou couldst repress ; nor did the dancing ruby,  
Sparkling, out-poured, the flavour, or the smell,  
Or taste, that cheers the hearts of gods and men.  
Allure thee from the cool crystalline stream.

## SAMSON.

Wherever fountain or fresh current flowed  
Against the eastern ray, translucent, pure  
With touch ethereal of Heaven's fiery rod,  
I drank, from the clear milky juice allaying                550  
Thirst, and refreshed ; nor envied them the grape  
Whose heads that turbulent liquor fills with fumes.

## CHORUS.

O madness ! to think use of strongest wines  
And strongest drinks our chief support of health ;  
When God with these forbidden made choice to rear  
His mighty champion, strong above compare,  
Whose drink was only from the liquid brook.

## SAMSON.

But what availed this temperance, not complete  
Against another object more enticing ?



## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

πολλοὺς μὲν ἥδη τῶν ἀγακλειτῶν μάχαις  
οἴνου πόθος δέδμηκε καὶ τερπνῶν ποτῶν.  
σοὶ δ' ἦν κρατῆσαι τῶνδε· καὶ γὰρ οὐποτε  
σκιρτῶντ', ἐρυθρά θ', ἥδύσασθαι γλυκὸν,  
βροτῶν θεῶν τε χάρμα γεύσασθαι γλυκὸν,  
ψυχρᾶς παρεξέτρεψέ σ' ὑαλίνης ῥοῆς.

## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

εἰ γάρ ποτ' ὄρθρίασιν ἀντία βολαῖς  
πηγῶν λιβάς τις διαφανῶν ἀπόρρεοι,                  560  
αἰθρηγενεῖ ξύνοικος οὐρανοῦ φλογὶ,  
δίψης ἀρωγὸν καθαρὸν ἐμμίξεις γάλα  
ἔπινον· οὐ γὰρ ἐφθόνουν ὃν ἀμπέλου  
σφοδρὸν ταράσσοι καὶ φρενοπληγὲς μέθυ.

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

φεῦ τῆς ἀνοίας, ὃς γε τὴν ῥώμην τρέφων  
αἰνῶν ποτῶν ἐγεύσατ', οὐδ' ἐφρόντισε  
Θεὸν τὸν ἄκρον τόνδε, τὸν μεγασθενῆ  
θρέψαι μαχήτην, εὔροον πίνονθ' ὕδωρ.

## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

ἀλλ', ὡς κρατούντων οἱς ἐτερπόμην πλέον,  
τί μοι τὸ κέρδος τοῦδε σώφρονος τρόπου;                  570

What boots it at one gate to make defence,                    560  
And at another to let in the foe,  
Effeminately vanquished? by which means,  
Now blind, disheartened, shamed, dishonoured, quelled,  
To what can I be useful? wherein serve  
My nation, and the work from Heaven imposed,  
But to sit idle on the household hearth,  
A burdenous drone, to visitants a gaze,  
Or pitied object, these redundant locks  
Robustious, to no purpose clustering down,  
Vain monument of strength, till length of years                570  
And sedentary numbness craze my limbs,  
To a contemptible old age obscure?  
Here rather let me drudge, and earn my bread;  
Till vermin, or the draf<sup>t</sup> of servile food,  
Consume me, and oft-invocated death  
Hasten the welcome end of all my pains.

**MANOAH.**

Wilt thou then serve the Philistines with that gift  
Which was expressly given thee to annoy them?  
Better at home lie bed-rid, not only idle,  
Inglorious, unemployed, with age outworn.                    580

μιᾶς τέ χρή τὸν ἐχθρὸν εἰργαθεῖν πύλης,  
ἔτέραν ἄφρουρον ὑπερορῶντ' ἀνάλκιδα;  
ἔξ ὅν τυφλός τε, λήματός τ' ἀθυμίᾳ  
ἄτιμος ἄλλως, οὐδὲν ἀν πόλεως ὑπερ  
δράσαιμ', ἀνώφελοντις δὲ κηφῆνος δίκην,  
οἴκοι τε θάσσων, τῶν Θεοῦ τεταγμένων  
ἔργων λέλησμαι, τοῖσι παρατυχοῦσι μοι  
ὶδεῖν ἐλειώς· οἶσι δέ εἴκομός ποτε  
ἴσχυον, ὡς μνημένα τοῦ πάλαι σθένους  
μάτην κέχυνται βόστρυχοι· τέλος δέ με,  
μελῶν ἀμαυρῷ λελυμένων ἀπραξίᾳ,  
μάρψει μάλ' αἰσχρὸν τέρμ' ἀλύοντος βίου.  
τοιγάρ πικρὰν πρέπει με κερδαίνειν τροφὴν  
ἀνελευθέροις πόνοισιν, ἔστ' ἀν ἀσμένῳ,  
εὐλαῖς φθαρέντι καὶ κακορρύπτῳ βορᾷ,  
πάντων ὅσων πέπονθα λωφῆσαι διδῷ  
πολλαῖσι μοι πίκλητος εὐχαῖσιν μόρος.

## ΜΑΝΩΣ.

ἀρ' οὖν ἐπ' ἄτη τῶν Φιλιστίνων γέρας  
λαβῶν, ὁφέλλων σφᾶς διαστρέψεις τόδε;  
ἡ μὴν λεχήρη μᾶλλον ἐρρίφθαι σ' ἔδει  
ἀργὸν παρηβήσαντ', ἀτίμητον Βροτοῦς.

580

590

But God, who caused a fountain at thy prayer  
From the dry ground to spring, thy thirst to allay  
After the brunt of battle, can as easy  
Cause light again within thy eyes to spring,  
Wherewith to serve him better than thou hast.  
And I persuade me so; why else this strength  
Miraculous yet remaining in those locks?  
His might continues in thee not for nought,  
Nor shall his wondrous gifts be frustrate thus.

SAMSON.

All otherwise to me my thoughts portend;                           590  
That these dark orbs no more shall treat with light,  
Nor the other light of life continue long,  
But yield to double darkness nigh at hand:  
So much I feel my genial spirits droop,  
My hopes all flat, Nature within me seems  
In all her functions weary of herself;  
My race of glory run, and race of shame,  
And I shall shortly be with them that rest.

MANOAH.

Believe not these suggestions, which proceed

Θεὸς δ', ὁ κρήνην ἐκ χθονὸς ἔηρᾶς τὸ πρὶν  
φλῦσαι κελεύσας, ἐκ μάχης κεκμηκότος  
σοῦ προσκαλοῦντος, τήν τε σὴν δίψαν σβέσας,  
ἄψυρρον αὐθις σοῦσιν ὄφθαλμοῖς τὸ φῶς  
τάχ' ἀν πορίζοι, τήν γε σὴν λειτουργίαν  
ἔχειν ἀμείνω τοῦ παρελθόντος χρόνου·  
οὐδὲ ἔστ' ἔμοιγε τοῦσδε μὴ πεποιθέναι.  
τί γὰρ τόδ' ἐν κόμαισι τερατῶδες σθένος  
ἔτ' ἔστιν, εἰ μὴ τῆς Θεοῦ βουλῆς χάριν;      600  
αὐτοῦ τὸ δῶρον, οὐ μάτην εἰργασμένου.

## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

ἡ κάρτα τούτοις ἄπερ ἐγὼ μαντεύομαι  
ἐναντιοῦται· νυκτὶ δὴ τῶνδ' ὄμμάτων  
ἀσπονδον εἶναι φῶς, τό τε ψυχῆς σέλας  
διπλῷ τάχος βραχύβιον ἐκλείψειν σκότῳ·  
τόσην ἀνίαν ὡδὸν ἄθυμος ἥσθιμην  
δύσελπις, ἡ φύσις τε, τῶν φρενῶν τροφὸς,  
ἔδοξεν ἀπειπεῖν ἐς τὸ πᾶν· ἀ δ' ἡνυσα  
κύδει προκόπτων, εἴτ' ἐπ' αἰσχύνην πεσών,  
πρὸς τέρμ' ἀφιγμέν', ἐν βραχεῖ κιχήσομαι      610  
τοὺς ἐκ παλαιῶν ἡσυχάζοντας πόνων.

## ΜΑΝΩΣ.

σὺ δ' οὐκ ἀν ὀρθῶς τῶνδέ γ' ἔννοιαν τρέφοις,

From anguish of the mind and humours black,  
That mingle with thy fancy. I, however,  
Must not omit a father's timely care  
To prosecute the means of thy deliverance,  
By ransom or how else. Mean while be calm,  
And healing words from these thy friends admit.

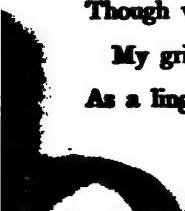
600

**SAMSON.**

Oh ! that torment should not be confined  
To the body's wounds and sores,  
With maladies innumerable,  
In heart, head, breast, and reins ;  
But must secret passage find  
To the inmost mind,  
There exercise all his fierce accidents,  
And on her purest spirits prey,  
As on entrails, joints, and limbs,  
With answerable pains, but more intense,  
Though void of corporal sense.

610

My griefs not only pain me  
As a lingering disease,



τὴν δηξιθύμων ἐκπεφυκυῖαν παθῶν  
μελαγχόλων τε τῆς φρενὸς φαντασμάτων·  
έμοι δὲ δεῖ, λύτροισιν εἴτ' ἀλλῳ τρόπῳ,  
ἐλευθεροῦν σε, καιρίαν σπουδὴν πατρό·  
τὰ μὲν παρόντα στέρξον εὐκήλῳ φρενὶ,  
δέχου δὲ μύθους τῶν φίλων θελκτηρίους.

## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

φεῦ, φεῦ,  
τάδε μὴ 'ν κραδίαις καὶ 620  
στήθεσι καὶ κεφαλαῖς μόναις πεσόντα  
ἀνάριθμα μελῶν ἄχη,  
ψυχᾶς βάθος ἀγνωστον  
κρυφαίαις εἰσόδοις  
ἐπελθεῦν,  
ὅσ' ἔνεστιν καθαρώτατα  
στρεβλοῦντ' αἰνοτάταις δύαις,  
ώς κατ' ἄρθρα καὶ ἔντερα,  
ἀλγίω δ' ἔτι καρτερεῦν,  
εἰ καὶ σώματος ἔξεδρα. 630  
οὐδ' ὁδύναις μόνον  
ώς χρονίας νόσου δέδηγμαι·

But, finding no redress, ferment and rage;

Nor less than wounds immedicable

620

Rankle, and fester, and gangrene,

To black mortification.

Thoughts, my tormentors, armed with deadly stings,

Mangle my apprehensive tenderest parts,

Exasperate, exulcerate, and raise

Dire inflammation, which no cooling herb

Or medicinal liquor can assuage,

Nor breath of vernal air from snowy Alp.

Sleep hath forsook and given me o'er

To death's numbing opium as my only cure;

630

Thence faintings, swoonings of despair,

And sense of Heaven's desertion.

I was His nursling once, and choice delight,

destined from the womb,

ἔξανθοῦντα πυάδεσι  
φλυκταίναις πυρετοῦ, ζέσαντ'  
ἀνίατα σέσηπεν ἔλκη  
σφακέλω κελαίνω.

ἄ δὲ καλχαίνω, σίνος ἐν ψυχᾶ  
μέγα κεντρομανὲς, τὸ μάλιστ' αὐτᾶς  
εὐαίσθητον δεινὰ διασπᾶ,  
καὶ καταμύσσει φρένας οἰστροδόνους,

640

καύματ' ἐγείρανθ', οἵς ἀν ἐπωδὰς  
οὐ πάρεχοι ποτὸν εἰμενὲς, οὐ φυτὰ  
κηλητήρια,  
βουνῶν τ' αὔραι χιονωδῶν.

>NNπος βλεφάρων φροῦδος ἀπέστη,  
καὶ νηπειθὲς θανάτου δῶρον  
μόνον αὔταρκες·

παπαῖ, παπαῖ,  
κάρτα δύσελπις, καὶ φρέν' ἀθυμῶν

ἐπτοιήθην θεομισῆς,

650

δὸς ἦ  
τὸ πάλαι τοῦ Σεμνοῦ,  
οἵα τις εὐφιλόπαις ἔθρεψε τέκνου,

Promised by heavenly message twice descending.

Under his special eye

Abstemious I grew up, and thrived amain.

He led me on to mightiest deeds,

Above the nerve of mortal arm,

Against the uncircumcised, our enemies.

640

But now hath cast me off, as never known,

And to those cruel enemies,

Whom I by his appointment had provoked,

Left me all helpless, with the irreparable loss

Of sight, reserved alive to be repeated

The subject of their cruelty or scorn.

Nor am I in the list of them that hope;

Hopeless are all my evils, all remediless.

This one prayer yet remains, might I be heard,

No long petition, speedy death,

650

The close of all my miseries, and the balm.

ώσει τηλύγετος γεγώς,  
δὶς θεόθεν κηρυχθέντ'  
ἀνων μαντεύματα.

ύφ' οὐ προη-  
-γητοῦ, φρενὸς ἐγκρατῆς,  
ἥβας ἐς τέλος ίκόμαν,  
θνατοῦ τ' ἔργουν ὑπερδραμῶν  
ἡρίστευσ' ἐπὶ βαρβάρους.  
ἀπερρίμμένον αὖ τὰ νῦν  
ἐχθροδοπόν τ' ἐῷ,  
αὐτὸς ἐμὲ δὲ μάχαν κελεύσε,  
ζωγρηθέντ', ἀλαόν τ' ἰδεῖν,  
ῶν οὐκ ἄν τις ἄκος φέροι,  
σκοπὸν τοῦσδε Ἰθρεώς τε κάπασ-  
-συτέρων ὀνειδῶν.

οὐδὲ ἐις ἐκείνους ἔστι τελεῖν μοι,  
τοὺς εὐέλπιδας, οὐ γάρ ἔτ' ἐλπίδες,        670  
οὔτις ἀνιών, φεῦ, θεραπείᾳ,  
πλὴν τόδε δῶρον Θεοῦ πάρα μέτριον,  
ώς δὲ τόδε ὥφελον εὐχαῖστι λαβεῖν,  
τέρμ' ὁδύναισιν,  
θάνατος, μῆχαρ ταχύπομπον.

## CHORUS.

Many are the sayings of the wise,  
In ancient and in modern books inrolled,  
Extolling patience as the truest fortitude ;  
And to the bearing well of all calamities,  
All chances incident to man's frail life,  
Consolatories writ  
With studied argument, and much persuasion sought.  
Lenient of grief and anxious thought.  
But with the afflicted in his pangs their sound               660  
Little prevails, or rather seems a tune  
Harsh, and of dissonant mood from his complaint :  
Unless he feel within  
Some source of consolation from above,  
Secret refreshings, that repair his strength,  
And fainting spirits uphold.

God of our fathers, what is man ?  
That thou toward him with hand so various—  
Or might I say contrarious ?—  
Temperest thy providence through his short course : 670  
Not evenly, as thou rulest  
The angelic orders and inferior creatures mute,

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ἢ μάλα πολλὰ σοφαῖς ἔνι κείμενα ρήματα βίβλοις,  
νῦν ἔν τε τῷ πάλαι χρόνῳ,

ἀθλον ἀριστείας τοῖς τλασιπόνοισιν ἔδωκεν·  
ἐστὶν δὲ ὅσα δεινὰ βροτοῖσιν;

ὅσσ' ἀμενηνὸν ἔχει μερόπων γένος                  680  
ἔξαντλεῖν, ἐπὶ τοσδε γεγραμμέναι  
εἰσὶν ἐπωδαὶ,

σαίνοντ' εὔθετ' ἐπη, ὀλοῶν θέλνγητρα μεριμνῶν.  
δυστάνφ δὲ, ἀλύρου τρόπου ἀρμονίας παραμούσου,  
μάταιος οἴχεται ψόφος  
ἐκ τούτων· δέ ἔναυλον ἔχων θεόθεν μείλικτρον,  
κρυπτὰν ἀρετᾶς τιν' ἀφορμὰν  
καὶ παλίνορσον ἐνῆκε φρεσὶν μένος.

ἢ, Πατρώϊε, ποικιλοβούλου                  690  
κάξυμβλήτου  
χειρὸς ἐπήσθετο σᾶς γένος ἀνθρώπων ταχύποτμον·  
οὐχ ὄμαλὸν, ὡς μακάρων χοροῦ  
ἢ νηπίων, ἄναξ, βοτῶν ἀλόγων, μέδεις·  
οὐδὲ λέγοιμ' ἀν  
τόνδε ἀδιάκριτον ὅχλον ἀλητῶν

Irrational and brute.

Nor do I name of men the common rout,  
That, wandering loose about,  
Grow up and perish, as the summer fly,  
Heads without name, no more remembered :  
But such as thou hast solemnly elected,  
With gifts and graces eminently adorned,  
To some great work, thy glory,  
And people's safety, which in part they effect.  
Yet toward these thus dignified thou oft,  
Amidst their highth of noon,  
Changest thy countenance and thy hand, with no regard  
Of highest favours past  
From thee on them, or them to thee of service.

Nor only dost degrade them, or remit  
To life obscured, which were a fair dismission ;  
But throwest them lower than thou didst exalt them high,  
Unseemly falls in human eye,  
Too grievous for the trespass or omission.  
Oft leavest them to the hostile sword  
Of heathen and profane, their carcasses  
To dogs and fowls a prey, or else captived,

μυιῶν τρόπον ὀλλυμένων θεροεσσῶν,

ἀνωνύμους

ἀργῶν κεφαλὰς ἀμνάστους·

οὐκ, ἀλλ' οἶουσπερ

ἀρετᾶς ἄτε δώρον ἔχοντας,

700

δείξας μεγάλοις αὐτὸς ἐπ' ἔργοις,

τῶν σῶν χάριν σέθεν τε

ἔν τε τοῖσδε ἡμιτελέστοις

συχνῷ μεταλλαγῇ μεσαμερίου φάους

κάθβαλες, οὐδὲ ὅν

αὐτὸς ἔδωκας καὶ τὸς ἀπηύρω

ἐστὶν μελέδημά σοι, οὐδὲ ἐριτίμων.

τοὺς δὲ οὐ μόνον

πότμῳ κολάσας ἐπιεικεῖ

παθεῖν ἀφῆκας,

710

πλέον δὲ κατὰ τὸν πάλαι δλβον,

ὅν θ' ἡμαρτον, ἐν οἰστίν τ' ἡμπλακον,

αἴσχιστ' ἵδειν πεσόντας·

ἢ βιαίῳ πολέμῳ,

πτανοῦς τε κύρμα καὶ κυσὶν,

ἐχθροῖσι βαρβάροισι καὶ βεβήλοις,

ἢ σώματ' αἰχμάλωτ' ἀπορρίψας ἔῆς,

Or to the unjust tribunals, under change of times,  
And condemnation of the ingrateful multitude.

If these they 'scape, perhaps in poverty  
With sickness and disease, thou bowest them down,  
Painful diseases and deformed,  
In crude old age;

700

Though not disordinate, yet causeless suffering,  
The punishment of dissolute days. In fine,  
Just or unjust, alike seem miserable.  
For ev'ry alike doth come to ev'rl end.

So deal not with this once thy glorious champion,  
The image of thy strength, and mighty minister.  
What do I say? how have thou dealt already?  
Rein'd him in this sense calamitous, and curst  
His labours, for thou canst, or peaceful end.

εἴτ', ἐν χρόνῳν ἀλλαγαῖς,

~~πολιτῶν~~

δίκαιοις ἀδίκοις τάδε δ' εἴ τις

720

διέφυγεν, πένητα

πηρόν τε καὶ γεραιὸν ἀλ-

-γηδόσιν διαστρέφεις.

καὶ τοὺς οὐκ ἀτάκτους

ἀταξίας σὺ ποιωνὰν

ὦ Πάτερ, ἀλόγοις νόμοις ἔπραξας.

ώς δὲ συνελόντι λέγειν,

πότμον λέλογχ' ἀδιάφορον

σὰ θέσμοντος ὁ παραλιπών τε χῶ φυλάξας,

ἄμφω τὸ πλεῖστον ἐξ ἵσης ἐφθαρμένω.

730

μὴ τὸν πάλαι παμμέγαν,

λήματός τε θείου

αὐτὸν, θεὸν ὡς δυνάμει, δι-

-άκονον φέριστον,

αἴκιζε τοῦσδε ἀντίσταθμα·

γῆκισας μὲν, γῆκισας

ἀλλ' ὡς πάντα νωμῶν,

ἰδών νιν ὡδὸν ἐλεινὸν,

δὸς φρενογαθῆ πόνων τελευτάν.

But who is this? what thing of sea or land—      710  
Female of sex it seems—  
That so bedecked, ornate, and gay,  
Comes this way sailing,  
Like a stately ship  
Of Tarsus, bound for the isles  
Of Javan or Gadire,  
With all her bravery on, and tackle trim,  
Sails filled, and streamers waving,  
Courted by all the winds that hold them play,  
An amber scent of odorous perfume      720  
Her harbinger, a damsel train behind?  
Some rich Philistian matron she may seem;  
And now at nearer view, no other certain  
Than Dalila thy wife.

**SAMSON.**

My wife! my traitress; let her not come near me.

**CHORUS.**

Yet on she moves, now stands and eyes thee fixed,  
About to have spoke; but now, with head declined,

τίς δ' ἄρα, πόντοθεν εἴτ' ἀπὸ χέρσου, 740

Θήλει' ἐσιδεῖν, ἔρχεται τὴμὲν;

ἢ μάλα λαμπρῷ κόσμῳ τρυφερὰ,

χῶς ἀπὸ Ταρσοῦ ναῦς ὑψιφανῆς

νήσους Ἑλλάδος ἢ ποτ' Ἰβήρων

ποτινισσομένη, καλὸν αἰωρεῖ

στολμὸν ναυτικὸν, ίστια λαμπρῶς

μετεώροισιν παρὰ σημείοις

ἀνέμους σαίνοντος ἀκραοῦν.

τῇδ' ἐναλλγκιος, ἀντὶ προπομποῦ

κηωέσσης ὁδμὴν αὔρας,

750

σὺν δ' ἀκολούθῳ χορῷ ἥγεῖται

καλλιθείρῳ· τοία γ' ἐσορᾶν

πολύδωρός τις μήτηρ εὔτεκνος

ἄδ' ἐπιχωρία· ἀλλ' ἐγγὺς ἵδων

σκεθρῶς ἔμαθον

τὴν σὴν, δύστηνε, γυναικα.

### ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

τὴν γυναικα, τὴν προδοῦσαν; ἄπαγε, μὴ πελαζέτω.

### ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ἀλλ' ὅμως, ὄψιν βεβαίαν ὄμμάτων τετραμμένην  
δεῦρ' ὄρῳ στείχουσαν, ἐν δὲ τῷ λαλεῖν ἐπαύσατο·

Like a fair flower surcharged with dew, she weeps,  
 And words addressed seem into tears dissolved,  
 Wetting the borders of her silken veil.  
 But now again she makes address to speak.

730

## DALILA.

With doubtful feet and wavering resolution  
 I came, still dreading thy displeasure, Samson,  
 Which to have merited, without excuse,  
 I cannot but acknowledge; yet if tears  
 May expiate—though the fact more evil drew  
 In the perverse event than I foresaw—  
 My penance hath not slackened, though my pardon  
 No way assured. But conjugal affection,  
 Prevailing over fear and timorous doubt,  
 Hath led me on, desirous to behold  
 Once more thy face, and know of thy estate,  
 If aught in my ability may serve  
 To lighten what thou sufferest, and appease  
 Thy mind with what amends is in my power,  
 Though late, yet in some part to recompense  
 My rash, but more unfortunate, misdeed.

740

## SAMSON.

Out, out, hyæna! these are thy wonted arts,

κράτα δ' ἔστηκεν κατηφής, πολυδρόσου τ' ἄνθους δίκην  
εὐχαρις κλαίουσα· τάπη δ' ἐντέτηκε δακρύων      761  
ἐκροᾶς, χελη διαινοντ' εὐūφῶν καλυμμάτων  
τὸ δὲ δοκοῦν, φθέγξαιτ' ἀν ηδὴ, δευτέροις βουλεύμασι.

## ΔΗΛΙΔΗ.

ἡκω, ποδῶν βάδισμα καὶ βουλὰς φρενῶν,  
σὸν γάρ δέδοικα θυμὸν, αἰωρουμένη·  
ώς σοὶ μάλ' ὅρθῶς αἰτιωμένῳ τάδε  
ξύμφημι· καίτοι, πραγμάτων καταστροφῇ,  
ἄν γοῦν προήδη πήματ' εἴργασμαι πλέω.  
ἀλλ' εἴ γε δακρύουσαν ὡν αἰσχρῶς ἔδρων  
λύτρον τελεῖν ἔξεστι, τοῦδέ γ' οὐδαμῶς      770  
ἐπαυσάμην ποτ', οὐδὲ συγγνώμην ἔχω.  
ἀνθ' ὧν, δάμαρτος ἴμέρφ νικωμένη,  
φόβον μεθεῖσα καὶ διχόρροπον φρένα,  
πάρειμι, τοῦ τέ σ' αὐθις ἀθρῆσαι πόθῳ,  
καὶ πάντα δρασείουσά γ' ὧν σθένος πάρα,  
παθῶν τ' ἐπωδάς ἀντίποιωνά θ' ὕβρεως.  
ἄκαιρα μὲν τάδ', ὧν δ' ἔρεξ ἀντίρροπα,  
πταισασά γ' ή θέλουσα, πολλοστὸν μέρος.

## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

ἔρρ' αἰσχρόμητι, καὶ πάλαι τούτων ἔδρις,

And arts of every woman false like thee,  
To break all faith, all vows, deceive, betray,      750  
Then, as repentant, to submit, beseech,  
And reconciliation move with feigned remorse,  
Confess, and promise wonders in her change :  
Not truly penitent, but chief to try  
Her husband, how far urged his patience bears,  
His virtue or weakness which way to assail.  
Then, with more cautious and instructed skill,  
Again transgresses, and again submits ;  
That wisest and best men, full oft beguiled,  
With goodness principled not to reject      760  
The penitent, but ever to forgive,  
Are drawn to wear out miserable days,  
Entangled with a poisonous bosom-snake ;  
If not by quick destruction soon cut off,  
**As I by thee, to ages an example.**

ἴναινα κούκ ἄνθρωπος· οὐδ' ἀλλφ τρόπῳ  
ἐσχημάτισται πᾶς γυναικεῖος δόλος,  
πίστιν προδουσῶν κείς τὸ πᾶν ψευδωμότων.  
αὖτε φενάκισμόν τε καὶ δεινὰς τέχνας  
λιτῶν μεταλλάσσουσι καὶ ξυναλλαγῆς  
κλαυθμῶν τε πλαστῶν· πρὸς δὲ καὶ, θαυμαστὸν ὡς,  
ἥθη παρεγγυώσι βελτίω πολύ·  
τὰ πάντα δὲ οὐδὲν, τοῦδε ἀεὶ πειρωμένων,  
ὅσον γέ τοι ἀνήρ δυσκόμιστον αἰνέσαι  
βίον, τίνων μάλιστ' ἀν ἐμβολαῖς δόλων  
καθιππάσαιντ', ἀνδρείον εἴτ' ἄρ' ἀσθενῆ. . . . . 790  
ἔπειτα δὲ αὐθις, διάδοχον πανευργίας,  
εὐταξίαν παρεῖχον εύμαθεστέραν.  
ὄθεν γέ τοι ἀριστεύοντες ἐν σοφοῖς τινὲς,  
σπουδαῖα παιδευθέντες ὥστε μὴ κβαλεῖν  
καὶ τῶν πονηρῶν δις παραιτεῖται δίκην,  
πανάθλιον τρίβουσιν ἡπατημένοι  
βίον, πλοκαῖσι θανασίμου πεπλεγμένοι  
ψυχὴν ἔχιδνης, εἴ γε μὴ τούναντίου  
διεφθάρησαν ταχύμοροι, τοῖς ἐκγόνοις  
μυημένοι, ὡς ἔγωγε σῶν δόλων ὅπο. . . . . 800

## DALILA.

Yet hear me, Samson ; not that I endeavour  
To lessen or extenuate my offence,  
But that, on the other side, if it be weighed  
By itself, with aggravations not surcharged,  
Or else with just allowance counterpoised,      77°  
I may, if possible, thy pardon find  
The easier toward me, or thy hatred less.—  
First granting, as I do, it was a weakness  
In me, but incident to all our sex,  
Curiosity, inquisitive, importune  
Of secrets, then with like infirmity  
To publish them—both common female faults—  
Was it not weakness also to make known,  
For importunity, that is for nought,  
Wherein consisted all thy strength and safety?      78°  
To what I did thou shewedst me first the way.  
But I to enemies revealed, and should not—  
Nor shouldest thou have trusted that to woman's frailty ;  
Ere I to thee, thou to thyself wast cruel.  
Let weakness then with weakness come to parle,  
So near related, or the same of kind ;  
Thine forgive mine ; that men may censure thine

## ΔΗΛΙΔΗ.

ὅμως δὲ ἀκούε τοὺς ἐμοὺς, Σάμψων, λόγους·  
οὐκ ἀν τι μειώσαιμ' ἀν ὡν ἔδρων ψόγον·  
ἀλλ' εἰ καλῶς ἔξεστι μετρῆσαι τάδε,  
μὴ προστεθέντος, παρὰ νόμου ρέπειν, βάρους,  
ἢ καὶ δικαίοις ἀντισηκώσαι σταθμοῖς,  
ἴσως σέθεν τύχοιμ' ἀν εὐμενεστέρου,  
ἢ δυσμένειαν τήν γε νῦν παρειμένου.

ἥμαρτον, οὐδὲ τοῦτ' ἀπαρνεῖσθαί με δεῖ,  
πάθος γυναικῶν ἴδιον, ἀποκεκρυμμένα  
σκαιῶς ἀνιστοροῦσα παρακάρφ πόθῳ,

810

καὶ πρὸς, τὰ δὲ ἄμφω κοινὰ θηλειῶν κακὰ,  
ἄλλοις παραγγέλλουσαι δειλίαν δὲ σὺ  
οὐκ ὀφλεῖς, ἀργῶν πραγμάτων ἡσσημένος,  
ὅθεν σθένειν ὑπῆρχεν, ἀποδεῖξας τίδε;  
ἔγωγ' ὀπαδὸς σοῦ προηγητῆρος ἦ.

μαθοῦσα δὲ, ἐχθροῖς, οὐδὲ ἐχρῆν, ηὔδων ἔγω.

σὲ δὲ οὐ καλῶς γυναικὶ πιστεῦσαι λέγω,

βλάψαντα σαντὸν, ἀδικίᾳ φθύσαντ' ἐμέ.

ἐν τοισῖδ' οὖν κυμβῷμεν, ὡς δὲ ὁμόγνιος

σφαλεῖς σφαλεῖσαν ἵλεῳ δέξαι τρόπῳ·

820

ἀνθ' ὧν ἀν ἐν βροτοῖσι συγγνώμης ίσως

The gentler, if severely thou exact not  
More strength from me than in thyself was found.  
And what if love, which thou interpretest hate,      790  
The jealousy of love, powerful of sway  
In human hearts, nor less in mine toward thee,  
Caused what I did? I saw thee mutable  
Of fancy, feared lest one day thou wouldest leave me  
As her at Timna; sought by all means therefore  
How to endear, and hold thee to me firmest.  
No better way I saw than by importuning  
To learn thy secrets, get into my power  
Thy key of strength and safety. Thou wilt say,  
“Why then revealed?”—I was assured by those      800  
Who tempted me, that nothing was designed  
Against thee but safe custody and hold.  
That made for me; I knew that liberty  
Would draw thee forth to perilous enterprises,  
While I at home sat full of cares and fears,  
Wailing thy absence in my widowed bed;  
Here I should still enjoy thee, day and night,  
Mine and love’s prisoner, not the Philistines’,  
Whole to myself, unhazarded abroad,  
Fearless at home of partners in my love.      810

μᾶλλον τύχους, μὴ μείζουν' ἐκπράξας ἐμὲ  
 ὃν αὐτὸς εἶχες· σκεπτέον δέ· μή τι μοι,  
 μισεῖν δοκούσῃ, ζῆλος ἔξ ̄ ἔρωτος ἦν  
 γεγών, δικαδίας τε καὶ φρενὸς μέδων,  
 δι ταῦτα δράσας; κουφόνουν μαθοῦσά σε,  
 δείσασα δ' ὡς ἀν αὐτε χηρώσαντ' ἐμὲ,  
 ὡς πρὶν σὺ τὴν Τιμοῦτιν, ἐσπειδον τόδε,  
 διπως σε συνδήσαιμι δυσλύτοις πέδαις·  
 τὸ δ ἡπόρουν, εἰ μή γε κεκτήμην ποθὲν      830  
 τὴν σὴν κρυφαίαν κλῆδα τῆς σωτηρίας.  
 τί δ ἦν, ἐφ' φ τόδ ἐκμαθοῦσ' αὐδᾶν ἔτλην;  
 η μὴν ὑπέσχονθ' οἵ με κλέπτοντες δόλῳ  
 ὡς μηδὲν ἐνοοῦντες εἰ γε μὴ σέθεν  
 φρουρᾶς ἀφύκτου δεσμά· πρὸς δ ἐμοῦ τέδ ἦν.  
 σὲ γὰρ σάφ' γδη διὰ χερῶν συχνοὺς ἔχειν  
 ἐλείθερον μέλλοντα κινδύνους, ἐμὲ  
 ἐάντα χήραν ἐν πολυστόνῳ λέχει  
 ἀνδρός τε φρούδου περιδεῖ· τὸ δ ἔμπαλιν  
 μένοντα, πάνυυχόν τε καὶ πανήμερον      840  
 αὐτὴ καθ' αὐτὴν εἶχον ἀν μόνη μόνου  
 φιλοῦσα, καὶ θύραθεν ἄψαυστον δύνης,  
 ἔρωτος αἰχμάλωτον, οὐκ ἔχθρον τινός.

These reasons in love's law have passed for good,  
Though fond and reasonless to some perhaps ;  
And love hath oft, well meaning, wrought much woe,  
Yet always pity or pardon hath obtained.  
  
Be not unlike all others, not austere  
As thou art strong, inflexible as steel.  
If thou in strength all mortals dost exceed,  
In uncompassionate anger do not so.

SAMSON.

How cunningly the sorceress displays  
Her own transgressions, to upbraid me mine !— 820  
That malice, not repentance, brought thee hither,  
By this appears. I gave, thou sayest, the example,  
I led the way ; bitter reproach, but true ;  
I to myself was false ere thou to me.  
  
Such pardon therefore as I give my folly,  
Take to thy wicked deed ; which when thou seest  
Impartial, self-severe, inexorable,  
Thou wilt renounce thy seeking, and much rather  
Confess it feigned. Weakness is thy excuse,

ἔρως μὲν ἔσθ' ὁ τόνδε κυρώσας λόγον,  
εἰ καὶ παρ' ἄλλοις ἀλογίαν ὀφλισκάνει.  
ἔρως μὲν ἄκων πόλλ' ἀπείργασται κακὰ,  
ἀεὶ δ' ἀθέφοις ἐν βροτοῦσιν ἐκριθη.

μή νυν σδηρόφρων τε κάκαμπτος μένει,  
οἵτε τ' ἄρ' οὐτις ἄλλος, ἐν ρώμῃς λόγῳ  
ἄθελκτος ἵσθι, μήδ', ἀριστεύων σθένος,  
δρυγῆς ἀπηνοῦς ἀθλον ἐν θυητοῖς λάβῃς.

850

## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

αὐτὴν μὲν ἥδ' ἡ φαρμακὶς, πυκνῷ δόλῳ,  
ἔμ' ὡς ἀληθῶς κερτομοῦσ', ἐμέμψατο.  
κακὸν φρονοῦσα, κού μεταλλαγεῖσα νοῦν,  
ἥκεις τεκμήριον δέ καὶ γάρ αὐτὸς ἡ,  
πικρὸν τόδ', ἀψευδὲς δὲ, λοιδορεῖς ἐμὲ,  
ὅ πρωτος εἰς ἐμαυτὸν ἀδικίας τύπον  
τόσης προδείξας, πρὸν σὲ τολμῆσαι ποτε.

ἴσον μὲν οὖν ἔμουγε συγγνώμης λαχεῖν  
τῆς μωρίας ἔξεστι, σῆς πανουργίας  
ἔχοις ἄν· ἔξ ἔμοῦ δὲ κατ' ἐμαυτοῦ δίκας  
ορθὸς ὄρωσα κάπαραιτήτους νόμους,  
ὰ νῦν ματεύεις, πρόφασιν ὡς θηρωμένη,  
τάχ' ἀν μεθείης τῶν φρενῶν ἀρρωστάτων

860

And I believe it,—weakness to resist 83

Philistine gold. If weakness may excuse.

What murderer, what traitor, parricide,

Incestuous, sacrilegious, but may plead it?

All wickedness is weakness; that plea therefore

With God or man will gain thee no remission.

But love constrained thee;—call it furious rage

To satisfy thy lust; love seeks to have love.

**My love how could'st thou hope, who tookest the way**

To raise in me inexpiable hate,

Knowing, as needs I must, by thee betrayed?

In vain thou striv'st to cover shame with shame,

Or by evasions thy crime uncoverest more.

DALILA.

Since thou determinest weakness for no plea

In man or woman, though to thy own condemning,

Hear what assaults I had, what snares besides,

What sieges girt me round, ere I consented;

σκῆψιν προτείνεις, οὐδ' ἔγωγ' ἀρνήσομαι,  
 τὸ μὴ σθένειν γε τοῖστι δελεάζουσί σε  
 χρύσῳ Φιλιστίνοισιν ἀντέχειν τότε·  
 οὶς εἴ τιν' ἡν φεύγοντα νικῆσαι λόγοις,  
 τίς δήποθι ἱερόσυλος ἢ πατροκτόνος,  
 προδότης τίς, αἰνόλεκτρος ἢ μιαίφονος, 870  
 ἐπὶ τοισδέ οὐκ ἄμεμπτος; ἀσθενεῖ γε πᾶς  
 δος ἀν πονηρὸς γῆ· σὲ δ' οῦποτ' ἀν Θεὸς  
 ἢ θυητὸς ἀπολύσειε τοιούτων χάριν.  
 ἀλλ' οὐδ' ἔρωτος τοῦτ' ἔδρας ἡσσημένη,  
 οἰστρηλατουμένη δὲ λαγνείας μένει.  
 ἔρωτ' ἔρως γὰρ ἀνταμοιβὸν ἄρνυται,  
 οὐ γ' οὕτιν' ἐλπίδ' εἰχεις, ἢ σαυτῆς κάτα  
 τείνασα δυσκάθαρτον ἔξ ἐμοῦ στύγος·  
 πρὸς σοῦ γὰρ γῆδη δεινὸν ἡπατημένος.  
 αὐτῇ μὲν ἥλως ἢ θέλουσ' ὑπεκφυγεῖν, 880  
 αἴσχει ματαίφ προσβαλοῦσ' αἰσχος πόνῳ

## ΔΗΛΙΔΗ.

ἐπεὶ σὺ, καίπερ σαυτὸν αἰτιώμενος,  
 γυναιξὶν ἀνδράσιν τ' ἀπεινέπεις τάδε,  
 φαίην ἀν οἵας ἐμβολάς τε καὶ δόλων  
 τέχνας περιβληθεῖσα, πολιορκουμένων

Which might have awed the best resolved of men,  
The constantest, to have yielded without blame.  
It was not gold, as to my charge thou layest,  
That wrought with me. Thou knowest the magistrates  
And princes of my country came in person,                   851  
Solicited, commanded, threatened, urged,  
Adjured by all the bonds of civil duty  
And of religion ; pressed how just it was,  
How honourable, how glorious, to entrap  
A common enemy, who had destroyed  
Such numbers of our nation ; and the priest  
Was not behind, but ever at my ear,  
Preaching how meritorious with the gods  
It would be to ensnare an irreligious                   860  
Dishonourer of Dagon. What had I  
To oppose against such powerful arguments ?  
Only my love of thee held long debate,  
And combated in silence all these reasons  
With hard contest. At length that grounded maxim,  
So rife and celebrated in the mouths  
Of wisest men, that to the public good  
Private respects must yield, with grave authority  
Took full possession of me and prevailed ;  
Virtue, as I thought, truth, duty, so enjoining.           870

δίκην, ἀπεῖπον, οἷσιν αὐθάδης μάλα  
 ἐνέδωκεν ἄν τις, ἀψεγῶς φοβούμενος·  
 χρύσου γὰρ οὐκ ἦν ἔργον, ὡς με διέβαλες·  
 τοὺς δὲ ἐν τέλει κάτοισθα, πρωτάρχους πόλεως,  
 αὐτούς μ' ἀπειλαῖς ἐντολαῖς τε καὶ λιταῖς 890  
 ἐπικαλέσαντας, πρὸς νόμου τε δημίου  
 τοῦ τ' ἐκ θεῶν σθένοντος, ὡς μάλ' εὐπρεπῶς  
 πεσοῦτο, καλλίσταισιν ἀγρευτὸς πάγαις,  
 ὃ τῶν πολιτῶν μυρίους ἀποκτανών.  
 οὐδὲ ὑστερεῖν ἔδοξαν οἱ τοὺς θεοὺς πέρι,  
 θρυλοῦντες ὡς εὔνοιαν ἐκ γε δαιμόνων  
 κτήσοιτο πᾶς τις ξυλλαβὼν τὸν δυσσεβῶς  
 Δάγων' ἀτιμάσαντα· τοιούτοις μὲν οὖν  
 τίς ἡ λογισμοῦς ἀνταγωνιστὴς ἐγώ;  
 ἔρως ὑπὲρ σοῦ χρόνιος ἀντιστὰς μόνος 900  
 στερρὸν σιωπῶν ἀθλον ἀθλεύειν ἔτλη.  
 τέλος, τὸ περιβόητον ἐκ σοφωτάτων  
 κηρυχθὲν ἀνδρῶν ρῆμα καὶ παλαίφατον,  
 KRATEIN TO KOINON, τῶν φρενῶν ἐδέσποσεν  
 αἰδὼς γὰρ ἦν, καὶ πίστις, ὡς δοκεῖν γ' ἐμοὶ,  
 ἀρετὴ τε σεμνότιμος, οἷς ἡπευγόμην.

## SAMSON.

I thought where all thy circling wiles would end ;  
In feigned religion, smooth hypocrisy.  
But had thy love, still odiously pretended,  
Been, as it ought, sincere, it would have taught thee  
Far other reasonings, brought forth other deeds.  
I, before all the daughters of my tribe  
And of my nation, chose thee from among  
My enemies, loved thee, as too well thou knewest,  
Too well ; unbosomed all my secrets to thee,  
Not out of levity, but overpowered                            880  
By thy request, who could deny thee nothing ;  
Yet now am judged an enemy. Why then  
Didst thou at first receive me for thy husband,  
Then, as since then, thy country's foe professed ?  
Being once a wife, for me thou wast to leave  
Parents and country ; nor was I their subject,  
Nor under their protection but my own,  
Thou mine, not theirs. If aught against my life

## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

ἢ κάρτ' ἔλεξας προσδοκῶντί μοι τάδε·  
 θεῶν γὰρ εὐσχημόν τι καὶ πλαστὸν σέβας  
 ἔσθ, οὐ γ' ἔκυρσαν σῶν δόλων περιστροφαί.  
 εἰ δ' ὃν προτείνεις, ως ἐχρῆν, ἀκήρατος      910  
 ἔρως ὑπῆρχε, τῶνδε διαφέροντά σ' ἀν  
 ἐδίδαξεν ἔργα καὶ λόγοις ἐνουθέτει.  
 σὲ δὴ πρὸ πασῶν τῆς ἐμῆς πάτρας κορῶν  
 ἔμφυλίων τε, κακὸν γένους ἔξειλόμην  
 ἐχθροῦ πόθου γάρ, φίλον κατειχόμην, σέθεν,  
 ἄγαν κατέγνως τὴν ἄγαν προθυμίαν,  
 ὥσπ' ἐκκαλύψαι τὰν φρεσὶν κειμήλια,  
 οὐχ ως ἀνοίας ἔνοχος, ἀλλ' ἡσσημένος  
 σοῦ λιπαρούσης, ἢ τὸ πᾶν ὑπεικτέον.  
 νῦν ταῦτα δράσας ἐχθρὸς ὧν ἐφηυρέθην.      920  
 τί δή μ' ἔδέξω νυμφικαῖς εὐναῖς τότε,  
 ἐχθρόν γε τῆς σῆς νῦν τε καὶ πάλαι πάτρας;  
 σὲ δ' εἰσάπαξ δάμαρτα, τὴν πόλιν τ' ἔδει  
 παρ' οὐδὲν, ἀντ' ἐμοῦγε, καὶ γεννήτορας  
 ἄγειν ἐκείνων δ' οὐκ ἐμοὶ κλίνειν θέμις,  
 σοῦ γὰρ φίλαξ καὶ τοῦδε τάνδρὸς αὐτὸς ἡ.  
 πρὸς ταῦθ' ὅστις αὐτῷν οἰστιν ἄν μ' εἴη κτανεῖν

Thy country sought of thee, it sought unjustly,  
Against the law of nature, law of nations ;                   890  
No more thy country, but an impious crew  
Of men conspiring to uphold their state  
By worse than hostile deeds, violating the ends  
For which our country is a name so dear;  
Not therefore to be obeyed. But zeal moved thee ;  
To please thy gods thou didst it. Gods unable  
To acquit themselves and prosecute their foes  
But by ungodly deeds, the contradiction  
Of their own deity, gods cannot be ;  
Less therefore to be pleased, obeyed, or feared.               900  
These false pretexts and varnished colours failing,  
Bare in thy guilt how foul must thou appear !

## DALILA.

In argument with men a woman ever  
Goes by the worse, whatever be her cause.

## SAMSON.

For want of words no doubt, or lack of breath—  
Witness when I was worried with thy peals.

φύσεως ὑπερβέβηκε καὶ βροτῶν νόμους.  
 οἱ δὲ ἐκπεσόντες τῶν πολιτείας ὅρων,  
 δεινοῖς ἐπ' ἔργοις ξυνομόσαντες ἐκδίκως,      930  
 οἱ δὲ οἰδὲ ἀν ἐξείνη ποτ' ἐν μάχῃ δορὸς  
 ῥυσιπτόλει, κάλλιστα τῆς πάτρας γέρα  
 φθείρουσ', ἐρασμίαν τ' ἐν ἀνθρώποις χάριν  
 μὴ δὴ τοιούτους ἀξιοῦν τιμῆς λαχεῖν.  
 μῶν σοῦς θεοῦς ἀρεστὰ ταῦτ' ἐσπούδασσας;  
 ἀλλ' οὐ γε μὴ σθένουσι μηδὲ αὐτοὺς μένειν,  
 η πού γε δή τιν' ἐχθρὸν ἀνατρέπειν βίᾳ,  
 μὴ οὐ δύσθεόν τι δρῶντες, οὐά τ' ἀν θεοῦς  
 οὕπως ξυνάδοι, τούσδε γ' οὐ θεοὺς λέγω,  
 οὐδὲ ἀν τρόπῳ νιν προσκύσαιμ' ἀν εὔσεβεi.      940  
 σκήψει σφαλεῖσ' οὖν χρωμάτων πεπλασμένων,  
 αἰσχρὰν ἐφάνθης ὑπερέχουσ' ἀλιτρίαν.

## ΔΗΛΙΔΗ.

ἢ μὴν ἀνὴρ, δίκαιον εἴτ' ἐκτὸς δίκης,  
 ἀεὶ γυναικὸς, ἐν λόγων μάχῃ, κρατεῖ.

## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

ἐπῶν γὰρ, ἢ ποθ' οὖνεκα σμικρᾶς πνοῆς·  
 εὐ σοῦ τόδε γῆδη καταβοώμενος πάλαι.

## DALILA.

I was a fool, too rash, and quite mistaken  
In what I thought would have succeeded best.  
Let me obtain forgiveness of thee, Samson;  
Afford me place to shew what recompense      910  
Toward thee I intend for what I have misdone,  
Misguided; only what remains past cure  
Bear not too sensibly, nor still insist  
To afflict thyself in vain. Though sight be lost,  
Life yet hath many solaces, enjoyed  
Where other senses want not their delights,  
At home, in leisure and domestic ease,  
Exempt from many a care and chance, to which  
Eye-sight exposes daily men abroad.  
I to the lords will intercede, not doubting      920  
Their favourable ear, that I may fetch thee  
From forth this loathsome prison-house, to abide  
With me, where my redoubled love and care,  
With nursing diligence, to me glad office,  
May ever tend about thee to old age,  
With all things grateful cheered, and so supplied,  
That, what by me thou hast lost, thou least shalt miss.

## ΔΗΛΙΔΗ.

φεῦ τῆς ἀνοίας τῆς τ' ἄγαν εὐθαρσίας.  
 ἔπταιο' ἐν οἷσι καὶ μάλιστ' ἐλπὶς παρῆν.  
 εἴη δ' ἄρ', εἴη σῆς με συγγνώμης τυχεῖν·  
 κάρτ' ἀντίποινα, καιρὸν ἦν λάβω, κακῶν      950  
 φέροιμ' ἄντ' ἄλλων παρενόμουν ἡγουμένων  
 σὲ δ' οὖν προσήκει τοὺς ἄγαν κλαυθμοὺς ἐᾶν,  
 στέργοντα τάχθος τῆς δυσιάτου δύνης.  
 πόλλα' ἔστι καίπερ ὅμματ' ἐστερημένῳ  
 θελκτήρι, οἷς γ' αἰσθησις ἐν λοιποῖς πάρα,  
 οἵκοι σχολάζουσίν τε φραντίδων τ' ἄτερ  
 αἱ τοὺς βλέποντας τοῖς καθ' ἡμέραν πόνοις  
 τρίβουσιν ἐκδημοῦντας· ἀσμένην μὲν οὖν  
 τοὺς τῇδ' ἄνακτας ἐμὲ παραιτεῖσθαι χρεὼν,  
 τῶν δ' οὐκ ἀθέλκτων τεύξομαι, σὲ τοῦδ' ὅπως      960  
 ἔσται μ' ὑπεκσώσασαν ἐργαστηρίου  
 τοῦ δυσφορήτου, ξύννομον τηρεῖν ἐμοί.  
 τάνθένδε, τῆς πρὸν ἔξοχον προθυμίας  
 ζῆλον παρασχοίμην ἀν εὐφιλὸς τροφὸς,  
 σὲ μηδὲ γηράσκοντα θυμηδοῦς χαρᾶς  
 δεῖσθαι, τὰ φροῦδα δ' ὡς μάλιστά γ' ἀναλαβεῖ  
 ἐμοῦ πορούσης, ἐξ ἐμοῦ βεβλαμμένον.

## SAMSON.

No, no, of my condition take no care ;  
It fits not ; thou and I long since are twain.  
Nor think me so unwary or accursed,                   930  
To bring my feet again into the snare  
Where once I have been caught : I know thy trains.  
Though dearly to my cost ; thy gins, and toils,  
Thy fair enchanted cup, and warbling charms,  
No more on me have power, their force is nulled ;  
So much of adder's wisdom I have learned,  
To fence my ear against thy sorceries.  
If in my flower of youth and strength, when all men  
Loved, honoured, feared me, thou alone couldst hate me,  
Thy husband, slight me, sell me, and forego me,           940  
How wouldst thou use me now, blind, and thereby  
Deceivable, in most things as a child  
Helpless, thence easily contemned and scorned,  
And last neglected ! How wouldst thou insult,  
When I must live uxorious to thy will  
In perfect thraldom ! How again betray me,  
Bearing my words and doings to the lords,  
To gloss upon, and, censuring, frown or smile !  
This jail I count the house of liberty

## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

μὴ τῆς τύχης σοὶ τῆς ἐμῆς μελησάτω.  
 πάλαι διχοστατοῦσιν οὐ πρέπει τόδε.  
 οἰκεῖά μοι, πολλοῦ γάρ ἀντ' ἐπριάμην  
 τὴν γνῶσιν, οἷα δικτύων ἀγρεύματα,  
 οἵους ποτῆρας, οίον ὡς Σειρήν μέλοις  
 ἐμηχανήσω· ταῦτα δ' ἦν εἰχέν ποτε  
 δύναμιν ἀπώλεσ', ὡς δὲ κωφίας, καλὰ  
 σὰ πρὸς μαγεύματ' ὥτ' ἐφραξάμην σοφῶς.  
 εἰ δῆτ' ἔτ' ἀκμάζοντα πρωθήβῳ σθένει,  
 πάντων πόθῳ φόβῳ τε τιμαλφούμενον,  
 μόνη πολιτῶν τόνδε τὸν σαυτῆς πόσιν  
 στυγεῖν ἀπορρίψαλ τε καὶ πωλεῖν ἔτλης,  
 πῶς ἄν με τυφλωθέντα χειρώσαιο νῦν,  
 δόλοισι ληπτὸν, κάπτορου βρέφους τρόπον  
 γελωτοποιὸν καὶ παρημελημένον;  
 ποίοισιν ἄν με σκώμμασίν τε καὶ τέχναις  
 τὸν πάγχυ δοῦλον, τὸν δάμαρτος ἵσσονα,  
 βάλοις, ὃσ' ἡ δράσαιμι, τοῖς ἐπιστάταις,  
 ἡ καὶ φράσας τύχοιμι, καταπροδοῦσ' ἀεὶ,  
 γέλωτ' ἐγείρασ', ἡ ξυνωφρυμένων  
 χόλον; τὰ δεσμὰ τούς γε σοὺς δόμους πάρα

To thine, whose doors my feet shall never enter. 950

DALILA.

Let me approach at least, to touch thy hand.

SAMSON.

Not for thy life, lest fierce remembrance wake  
My sudden rage to tear thee joint by joint.  
At distance I forgive thee, go with that ;  
Bewail thy falsehood, and the pious works  
It hath brought forth to make thee memorable,  
Among illustrious women, faithful wives.  
Cherish thy hastened widowhood with the gold  
Of matrimonial treason;—so farewell.

DALILA.

I see thou art implacable, more deaf 960  
To prayers than winds and seas ; yet winds to seas  
Are reconciled at length, and sea to shore :  
Thy anger, unappeasable, still rages,  
Eternal tempest never to be calmed.  
Why do I humble thus myself, and, suing  
For peace, reap nothing but repulse and hate,

ἐλεύθερ' ἔστιν, οὐδὲ ἀμείψαιμ' ἄν ποτε.

### ΔΗΛΙΔΗ.

ἄρ' οὖν προσέλθω, τῆς τε σῆς χειρὸς θύγω; 990

### ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

μὴ δή· κελεύω πρός σε τῆς ζωῆς τόδε·

μὴ τῶν παλαιῶν οὖνεκ' ἀμπλακημάτων

αἰν' ἔξεγερθώ, σὸν σπαραχθῆναι δέμας

μεληδὸν αὔτως· σοὶ τάδ' αἰνέσαι χρεών·

πρόσω μενούσῃ γ' οὐκ ἄν ἐγκαλοῦμ' ἔτι·

κλαίειν σε δεῖ ψεύσασαν, ὃν τ' ἔδρας τότε

κάρτ' εὐσεβήσασ', ὥστε καὶ κλειναῖς ἔνι

γυναιξὶ ταῖς πρὶν καὶ φιλάνδροισιν πρέπειν.

χαίρουσ' ἄν, φ' ἡλαβεῖς γε τῇ μισθαρνίᾳ,

αὐτὴ ταχύνασ' εὐνιν εὐφράναις βίον.

1000

### ΔΗΛΙΔΗ.

ὅρῳ σ' ἀμείλιχόν τε κάπροσήγορον

λιταισιν, οιά τ' οὐδὲ πρὸς πόντου σάλον

τὰ πνεύμαθ', οἰσιν, ώς παροίχεται χρόνος,

εἴσ', ώς πρὸς ἀκτήν εἰσ' ἀλὸς, ξυναλλαγαῖ·

σοὶ δυσπροσοίστῳ μαίνεται θυμὸς βίᾳ,

χειμῶνος ώς ἄπαινστον αἰανοῦς μένος.

ἢ γὰρ ματαίας ἵκεσίας ἀντεσχόμην·

Bid go with evil omen, and the brand  
Of infamy upon my name denounced?  
To mix with thy concernsments I desist  
Henceforth, nor too much disapprove my own.      970  
Fame, if not double-faced, is double-mouthed,  
And with contrary blast proclaims most deeds;  
On both his wings, one black, the other white,  
Bears greatest names in his wild airy flight.  
My name perhaps among the circumcised,  
In Dan, in Judah, and the bordering tribes,  
To all posterity may stand defamed,  
With malediction mentioned, and the blot  
Of falsehood most unconjugal traduced.  
But in my country, where I most desire,      980  
In Ecron, Gaza, Asdod, and in Gath,  
I shall be named among the famousest  
Of women, sung at solemn festivals,  
Living and dead recorded, who, to save  
Her country from a fierce destroyer, chose  
Above the faith of wedlock-bands, my tomb

ὕβριν λαχοῦσαν καὶ στύγος μ' ἀπήλασας,  
 φάτιν δύσορυν δυσκλεᾶ τ' ἐστυγμένην.  
 ἀφετέον οὖν σε τὴν τε σὴν τύχην ἐμοὶ,  
 καὶ δὴ περισσὸν ὡν δέδρακ' αὐτὴν ψόγον.  
 διχόστομος γάρ, εἴ γε μὴ διχῶς βλέπει,  
 τὰ πλεῖστ' ἔθωνξ' ἀντιπνοῖς κηρύγμασι  
 φήμη, πτεροῦς δισσοῖσιν αἰωρουμένη·  
 τὸ τῆδε λευκὴ, θάτερον μελάγχιμος,  
 καὶ τῶν μεγίστων ὄνόματ' ἐκφέρει δίχα·  
 ὡς εἰκάσαι με, τοῖσι περιτετμημένοις  
 τοῖς τῆδε, κεὶ τις τῶν Ἰουδαίων ὄροις  
 ἔστ' ἀγχιτέρμων, ἡ τάλαινα Δηλλη  
 ἀπευκτὸς ἔσται καξάγιστος εύσαει,  
 χῶς τοὺς γάμους προδοῦσα διαβεβλημένη.  
 ἐν δ' οἷσιν ἔσται ταῦτά μοι μάλ' ἀσμένη,  
 τοὺς ἀμφὶ Γάζην, ἐν τ' Ἐκρωναίων πέδῳ,  
 κατ' Ἀστοδὸν Γάθην τε, τιμία γυνὴ  
 σεμνῶς ἐφτάζουσιν ὑμνηθήσομαι,  
 καὶ ζῶσα καὶ θανοῦσα μὴ λήθης τυχεῖν,  
 ὡς ἀντ' ἔρωτος καὶ γαμηλίου λέχους  
 πόλιν, σέθεν πορθοῦντος ἀγρίᾳ χερὶ,  
 σώσασα, τυμβόχωστον εὔοδμον γάνος

1010

1020

With odours visited and annual flowers;  
Not less renowned than in mount Ephraim  
Jael, who with inhospitable guile  
Smote Sisera sleeping, through the temples nailed. 990  
Nor shall I count it heinous to enjoy  
The public marks of honour and reward  
Conferred upon me, for the piety  
Which to my country I was judged to have shewn.  
At this whoever envies or repines,  
I leave him to his lot, and like my own.

## CHORUS.

She is gone,—a manifest serpent by her sting,  
Discovered in the end, till now concealed.

## SAMSON.

So let her go. God sent her to debase me,  
And aggravate my folly, who committed 1000  
To such a viper his most sacred trust  
Of secrecy, my safety and my life.

## CHORUS.

Yet beauty, though injurious, hath strange power,  
After offence returning, to regain  
Love once possessed, nor can be easily  
Repulsed, without much inward passion felt,

ἀνθέων ἐτησίοισι καρποῦσθαι φοραῖς.

1030

οὐ γάρ τι μᾶλλον Ἡφραημιτῶν χοροὶ<sup>1</sup>  
κλήζουσ' Ἰάλην, τὴν πάλαι κακόξενου  
ῆλοις διανταίοισιν ὑπνῶσσον κάρα

τῷ Σισέρᾳ τρήσασαν, ἀθεμίστῳ δόλῳ·  
οὐδ' αἰσχρὸς ἔμοιγε τάκ πόλεως ἡγήσομαι,  
ἀλλ' ἀντίμισθα τῶν πεπραγμένων γέρα,  
ώς θεοσεβής τε καὶ πάτρας εὐεργέτις.  
τῆς ής τύχης ὄνταιθ', δις ἀν τούτων φθονοῖ,  
ώς αἰνεσάσης, οἷς συνεζεύχθην, ἔμοιν.

1039

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

αὐτόδηλος ώς δράκαινα, τῶν μάλ' εὖ κεκρυμμένων  
ἐς τὰ νῦν κέντρων ἔκατι, φροῦδος ἐκ δόμων γυνῆ.

## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

οὐδ' ἔμοιγύ ἄκοντός ἐστιν, ὅντιν' αἰκίᾳ τόσῃ  
κάρτα μῶρον ὄντ' ἐλέγξων, τήνδ' ἐπίγλεν Θεὸς,  
τὴν ἔχιδναν, γῇ τὸ κρυπτόν μοι παρηγγυημένουν  
ρύσιον γέρας παρῆκα, τὸν ἐμὸν ἐκρίψας βίον.

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ἀλλ' ὅμως δεινὸν σθένουσαν ἵσμεν εὔμορφον χάριν,  
δυσμενῆ τλάσαν κατελθεῖν, τὸν τ' ἔρωτα τὸν πάλαι  
ἀναφέρειν, τὸ δὲ οὗτος ἀνδρῶν ῥᾳδίως ἀν ἐκβάλοι·

And secret sting of amorous remorse.

SAMSON.

Love-quarrels oft in pleasing concord end,  
Not wedlock-treachery endangering life.

CHORUS.

It is not virtue, wisdom, valour, wit,                   1010  
Strength, comeliness of shape, or amplest merit,  
That woman's love can win or long inherit;  
But what it is, hard is to say,  
Harder to hit,  
(Which way soever men refer it)  
Much like thy riddle, Samson, in one day  
Or seven, though one should musing sit.  
  
If any of these, or all, the Timnian bride  
Had not so soon preferred  
Thy paronymph, worthless to thee compared,           1020  
Successor in thy bed,  
Nor both so loosely disallied  
Their nuptials, nor this last so treacherously

καὶ λαθὼν, κέντρον ξύνοιδε δηξίθυμον ἵμέρουν. 1049

## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

ζυγομαχήσασιν θαμίζουσ' ἐν φίλοις ξυναλλαγαῖ·  
ἔτερόν ἔστιν ἡ προδοῦσα, καν γάμοις ἀνδροφθόρος.

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ἀρετὴν οὐ φημ' οὐδέ τιν' ἀλκὴν,  
οὐδέ εὐτραπέλους δῶρον γλώσσης,  
οὐδέ εὐειδὲς σῶμα μεγασθενὲς,  
οὐδέ ὅπόσον κλέος, ἡτορ δαμάσαι  
τὸ γυναικέιον· τί δ' ἀν εἴη τοῦτο  
εὔστοχος ἄν τις μόγις ἔξεύροι  
πάντοις ἐρευνῶν, εἴτε πανήμερον  
εἴθ' ἐφθήμερον, ὡς οἱ τὸ πάλαι  
καλχαίνοντες

1060

τὰ σὰ δείν' αἰνήγματα, Σάμψων.  
τούτων γ' ἔνεκ' οὐκ εὐμαρὲς οὕτω  
τὴν νυὸν οὐκ ἦν τὴν ἀπὸ Τίμνας  
σοῦ προελέσθαι τὸν πολὺ χείρω  
λέκτρων μετέχειν, τὸν παρανύμφιον·  
οὐδέ αὖ γαμικῶν ῥεῖν ἐλύθησαν  
θεσμοὶ σπονδῶν, οὐδέ αὖ Δηλίλη  
αἰμύλ' ἔδρασεν, μοιρύκραντον

Had shorn the fatal harvest of thy head,  
Is it for that such outward ornament  
Was lavished on their sex, that inward gifts  
Were left for haste unfinished, judgment scant,  
Capacity not raised to apprehend  
Or value what is best  
In choice, but oftest to affect the wrong?  
Or was too much of self-love mixed,  
Of constancy no root infix'd,  
That either they love nothing, or not long?

Whate'er it be, to wisest men and best,  
Seeming at first all heavenly under virgin veil,  
Soft, modest, meek, demure,  
Once joined, the contrary she proves, a thorn  
Intestine, far within defensive arms  
A cleaving mischief, in his way to virtue  
Adverse and turbulent; or by her charms  
Draws him awry enslaved  
With dotage, and his sense depraved  
To folly and shameful deeds, which ruin ends.

1030

1040

τῆς σῆς κεφαλῆς κείρασα θέρος.

μῶν ὅτι μορφῆς δῶρον ἔχουσιν,

χάριν ὡραίαν ἀμέγαρτον,

τά γε τῆς ψυχῆς φρόνιμ' ἐλλείπουσ'

ἀτέλεστ' ἀλλως,

τό γε βέλπιστον μὴ διακρίνειν;

νοῦς σφιν ἄωρος καὶ σμικρολόγος,

τῶν τε κακίστων

τά γε πόλλ' εἴωθεν ἔχεσθαι·

ἡ τὰ πρὸς αὐτῶν σπεύδουσι λίαν,

μηδὲ φιλοῦσαι φιλίαν τηροῦσ',

ἀργὰς φρένας ἀρρίζωτοι;

1080

ὅπτι ποτ' ἦν, εἰ καὶ σοφίαν τις ἀριστεύεσκε,

δόξας δίαν ἵδειν καὶ παρθενικᾶς ὁθόναισιν

αἰδὼ θέσσαμέναν καὶ κεδονὸν σχῆμα κατηφὲς,

γήμας εὑρε οὐέν, σίνος ἔμφυτου, οὐ ποτε φυκτὸν

ὅπλων φυλακᾶς, κέντρον ἐσ ἀεί·

τῶν γάρ καλῶν

ἴεμένον θορύβῳ

κωλύει, δοῦλόν τε δολορράφιᾳ παρακόπτει

αισχρουργεῖν δι' ἀτασθαλίας· τὰ δὲ ἔκυρσεν ὀλέθρου.

What pilot so expert but needs must wreck,  
Embarked with such a steers-mate at the helm ?  
Favoured of Heaven, who finds  
One virtuous, rarely found,  
That in domestic good combines.  
Happy that house ! his way to peace is smooth.  
But virtue which breaks through all opposition, 1050  
And all temptation can remove,  
Most shines, and most is acceptable above.  
Therefore God's universal law  
Gave to the man despotic power  
Over his female in due awe,  
Nor from that right to part an hour,  
Smile she or lour ;  
So shall he least confusion draw  
On his whole life, not swayed  
By female usurpation, or dismayed. 1060

τοιούτου γε τυχάν οἰακονόμου, ξυνετός περ, 1090  
 τίς ποτε ναύκληρος φύγε μὴ καταποντισθῆναι;  
 εὐδαίμων, δς κίχε,  
 καὶ σπανίᾳ τύχα,  
 εὖξυγον ἐστιοῦ-  
 χον ἄλοχον ἀπειρόκακον,  
 εὐεστώ τ' ἄπονον·  
 ἀρετὰ δ' ἀντίβιόν θ' ὁρμὰν  
 καταπαλαίουσα, καὶ  
 παρατροπὰς σφάλλου-  
 σα, θεοῖς κάλλιστα προσάδει. 1100  
 πρὸς τάδ' ὁ πᾶσιν ἀνάσσων  
 δυσταπάλλακτον διαπαντὸς  
 θῆκε, τὸν ἄρσενα  
 τᾶς θηλείας ἐν παντὶ τρόπῳ  
 παντοκράτορ' εἶναι·  
 εἴτ' εὔκολον εἴτε σύνοφρυν,  
 δεῖ νιν ὑποπτήσσονταν κατέχειν·  
 δρῶν τόδ', ἀμώμητος  
 διατελέσει ζῶν,  
 οὐδὲ γυναικοκρα- 1110  
 -τούμενος ἐκδίκως  
 ἐν φοβερῷ φρενὶ.

But had we best retire? I see a storm.

SAMSON.

Fair days have oft contracted wind and rain.

CHORUS.

But this another kind of tempest brings.

SAMSON.

Be less abstruse, my riddling days are past.

CHORUS.

Look now for no enchanting voice, nor fear  
The bait of honied words; a rougher tongue  
Draws hitherward; I know him by his stride,  
The giant Harapha of Gath, his look  
Haughty, as is his pile high-built and proud.  
Comes he in peace? what wind hath blown him hither  
I less conjecture, than when first I saw                  1071  
The sumptuous Dalila floating this way.  
His habit carries peace, his brow defiance.

SAMSON.

Or peace or not, alike to me he comes.

CHORUS.

His fraught we soon shall know, he now arrives.

ἐκποδῶν ἵωμεν ἥδη χεῖμα γάρ προσέρχεται.

### ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

συχνὰ χεῖμα, συχνά τ' ὅμβρος, εὐδίων ἐξ ἡμερῶν.

### ΧΟΡΟΣ.

καινὸν εἰδός ἐστ' ἀέλλης, οὐδὲ τῶν εἰθισμένων.

### ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

λεκτέον σαφέστερ' οὐκέτ' ἔστι χρησμωδεῖν ἐμοί.

### ΧΟΡΟΣ.

τούγαρ εῦλαλόν τε γῆρυν καὶ μελιφθόγγων λόγων  
φίλτρα νῦν μὴ προσδέχου σύ· τραχύφωνος ἐκ Γάθης  
‘Ηρύφας, ὁ μακροβάμων καὶ γυγαντεῖος, πάρα,  
νήφικομπος ὡς ἴδειν νιν, καὶ τὸ σῶμ’ ὑπέρμεγας. 1120  
ἀρά νυν ἡμῖν προσηνῆς καὶ κατ’ οὐρον ἔρχεται;  
τοῦδε μεῖον ἡ νεωστὶ Δηλίλης στοχάζομαι,  
ὅτε τρυφῇ πλέουσα πολλῇ δεῦρ’ ἐκαλλωπίζετο·  
τῇ στολῇ σπουδὰς φέροντος, ὅμματ’ ἐς μάχην καλεῖ.

### ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

τῶνδ’ ἐμοιγ’ οὐ φροντίσ.

### ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ἥκει, σημανῶν ἀ βούλεται.

**HARAPHA.**

I come not, Samson, to condole thy chance,  
 As these perhaps, yet wish it had not been,  
 Though for no friendly intent. I am of Gath,  
 Men call me Harapha, of stock renowned  
 As Og, or Anak, and the Emims old                   1080  
 That Kiriathaim held ; thou knowest me now,  
 If thou at all art known. Much I have heard  
 Of thy prodigious might and feats performed,  
 Incredible to me, in this displeased,  
 That I was never present on the place  
 Of those encounters, where we might have tried  
 Each other's force, in camp or listed field ;  
 And now am come to see of whom such noise  
 Hath walked about, and each limb to survey,  
 If thy appearance answer loud report.                   1090

**SAMSON.**

The way to know were not to see but taste.

**HARAPHA.**

Dost thou a'ready single me ? I thought  
 Gyves and the mill had tamed thee. Oh, that fortune  
 Had brought me to the field, where thou art famed  
 To have wrought such wonders with an ass's jaw !

## 'ΗΡΑΦΑΣ.

οὐ ξυνδακρύσων τῶν κακῶν ἔκατι σοι,  
 Σάμψων, πάρειμι, τοῖσιν ἐνθάδ' ἐξ ἵσου'  
 ἀκοντὶ δή μοι, καίπερ οὐ φίλῳ, τάδε·  
 ὁ γὰρ Γαθίτης ἐν βροτοῦσιν Ἡράφας  
 κλύω, γένος μὲν οἰος εἴτ' "Ογης ποτὲ      1130  
 εἴτ' Ἡνάκης, εἴτ' "Ημιμαι παλαιίχθονες  
 οἱ περὶ Κίραιθον ὅστις εἰμ' οὐκ ἀγνοεῖς,  
 μὴ οὐκ αὐτὸς ἐν θυητοῦσιν ἀγνοούμενος.  
 ἀ μὲν σθένεις τε καὶ δέδρακας ἔξοχα  
 ἄπιστα πόλλα' ἥκουσα, τοῦτο δυσφορῶν,  
 τὸ μήποτ' αὐτὸς παρατυχεῖν, ὡστ' εἰδέναι  
 κλειστοῖς ἀγώσιν, ὁπότερος κρείσσων μάχῃ.  
 ἥκω δ' ἀναθρήσων σε τὸν περίκλυτον  
 μελεῖστὶ, λαμπρόφωνον ἀνέλέγξαι βοήν.

## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

τὸ δ' οὐκ ἴδων τις ἔμαθεν, ὃς δ' ἐγεύσατο.      1140

## 'ΗΡΑΦΑΣ.

οὐκ οὖν μυλᾶνος, οὐδὲ πρὸς Δεσμῶν δαμεὶς  
 προκαλεῖ με τούτοις· ή μάλ' ὥφελεν Τύχη  
 ἐκεῖσέ μ' ἀγαγεῖν, οὐ σὲ τῇ σιαγόν  
 ὠπλισμένον κλήζουσι δείν' εἰργασμένον.

I should have forced thee soon with other arms,  
 Or left thy carcass where the ass lay thrown.  
 So had the glory of prowess been recovered  
 To Palestine won by a Philistine,  
 From the unresigned race, of whom thou bearest  
 The highest name for valiant acts: that honour.      *exit*  
 Certain to have won by mortal duel from thee  
 I lose, prevented by thy eyes put out.

SAMSON.

Breast not of what thou wouldest have done, but in  
 What then thou wouldest: thou seest it in thy hand.

HARAPHA.

To combat with a blind man I disdain,  
 And thou hast need much washing to be touched.

SAMSON.

Such usage as your honourable lords  
 Afford me, assassinated and betrayed;  
 Who durst not with their whole united powers      *exit*  
 In fight withstand me single and unarmed,  
 Nor in the house with chamber-ambuscades  
 Close-banded durst attack me, no, not sleeping;  
 Till they had hired a woman with their gold,  
 Breaking her marriage faith, to circumvent me,

ἄλλων ἀν ωρέξω γὰρ, εἴ γε μὴ πεσες  
δυνφ ἔννέκβλητός τε καὶ πατούμενος·  
πάλιν δ' ἀν ἡρίστευσεν ἡ Φιλιστία  
ὑπ' ἐμοῦ πολίτου, τῶν τε περιτετμημένων  
προεῖχεν, ὃν κύδιστος ἐν κλόνοισι σύ.  
τόδ', οὐδὲ γ' ἀν οὕπως μονομαχῶν ἥμαρτον ἀν,  
ἀπεστέρησάς μ' ὁμμάτων τητώμενος.

1151

## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

μὴ δὴ τὰ μὴ δεδραμέν' ἐκφήνης λόγῳ  
ματαιόκομπος· δεῖ δέ σ', ὡς ἔτοιμα, δρᾶν.

## ΗΡΑΦΑΣ.

οὐκ ἔστ' ἀγών μοι πρὸς τὸν ὁμματοστερῆ·  
λουτροῦ δ' ἀθίκτων οὐδὲ ἀν ἄψαλμην ἐγώ.

## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

τούτων δ' ἔμ' ἡξίωσαν οἱ σοὶ δεσπόται,  
οἱ τίμιοι δὴ, τὸν παρηπατημένον,  
οἱ καὶ ἔνναθροισθέντες οὐκ ἔτλησαν ἀν  
γυμνῷ μόνῳ τ' ἔμουγ' ἀπαντῆσαι ποτε,  
ἀλλ' οὐδὲ ἐφεδρεύοντες ὑπνώσσοντί μοι

1160

θαλάμων μυχοῖσι προσβαλεῖν πυκνῷ λόχῳ,  
πρὶν δὴ γύναιόν μ' ἀργυρώνητον, γάμους  
ψεύσασαν, ἐκτήσαντα παρακροῦσαι δόλῳ.

Therefore, without feigned shifts, let be assigned  
Some narrow place enclosed, where sight may give thee,  
Or rather flight, no great advantage on me ;  
Then put on all thy gorgeous arms, thy helmet  
And brigandine of brass, thy broad habergeon,      1120  
Vant-brass and greaves, and gauntlet, add thy spear,  
A weaver's beam, and seven-times-folded shield ;  
I only with an oaken staff will meet thee,  
And raise such outcries on thy clattered iron,  
Which long shall not withhold me from thy head,  
That in a little time, while breath remains thee,  
Thou oft shalt wish thyself at Gath, to boast  
Again in safety what thou wouldest have done  
To Samson, but shalt never see Gath more.

#### HARAPHA.

Thou durst not thus disparage glorious arms,      1130  
Which greatest heroes have in battle worn,  
Their ornament and safety, had not spells  
And black enchantments, some magician's art,  
Armed thee or charmed thee strong, which thou from heaven  
Feignedst at thy birth was given thee in thy hair,  
Where strength can least abide, though all thy hairs

πρὸς ταῦτ', ἔασον εὐπρεπῶν σκῆψιν λόγων·  
 ἔρκος τις ἡμῖν στενόπορον χωριζέτω,  
 ὅπου βλέπων, μᾶλλον δ' ὅπου φεύγειν ἔχων  
 ἥκιστα κερδάναις ἄν· εἴτα φαῦδιμον  
 πήληκα καὶ θώρηκα καὶ χαλκήλατον  
 χιτῶνα κινημῖδάς τε καὶ βραχιόνων  
 πρόβλημα χειρὸδάς τε καὶ πελώριον  
 ἔγχος τὸ θ' ἐπτάβιον εὔπηκτον σάκος  
 λάθοις ἄν· αὐτὸς δρύινον ἀντισχὼν ξύλον  
 πατάγῳ σιδηροῦν σοὶ διαρρήξω λόφον,  
 κρατὸς μάταιον ἔρυμα, καὶ Γάθης πόθον,  
 ὃσον γ' ἀν ἐξῆ διατελεῖν πνέοντά σε,  
 καὶ σφόδρ' ἐνήσω· τοῦτο δ' οὐκ ἔσται ποτὲ,  
 ἀ δρᾶν ἔμελλεις ἐν Γάθῃ σε γαυριάν.

## ‘ΗΡΑΦΑΣ.

οὐκ ἀν σὺ τήνδε τὴν ἀγακλειτὴν στολὴν,  
 τὴν καὶ φερίσταντος ἀσφαλεῖ παντευχίᾳ  
 συχνὸν κεκοσμηκύναν, νέβριζειν ἔτλης,  
 εἰ μή σ' ἐπωδαῖς καὶ κακοῦς μαγεύμασι  
 γόης ἐθώρηξ· ὡς δὲ σοῦ μαθεῖν πάρα,  
 γέρας τόδ' ἔσχεις γενόμενος θεόσδοτον,  
 κόμαις ἐνοικοῦν, αἷς σθένους μέτεστι δὴ

Were bristles ranged like those that ridge the back  
Of chafed wild boars, or ruffled porcupines.

## SAMSON.

I know no spells, use no forbidden arts;

My trust is in the living God, who gave me 1140

At my nativity this strength, diffused

No less through all my sinews, joints, and bones,

Than thine, while I preserved these locks unshorn,

The pledge of my unviolated vow.

For proof hereof, if Dagon be thy God,

Go to his temple, invoke his aid

With solemnest devotion, spread before him

How highly it concerns his glory now

To frustrate and dissolve these magic spells,

Which I to be the power of Israel's God 1150

Avow, and challenge Dagon to the test,

Offering to combat thee his champion bold,

With the utmost of his godhead seconded:

Then thou shalt see, or rather to thy sorrow

ηκιστα πάντων, οὐδ' ἀν εἰ τριχῶν στίχας  
ἔχοις οἴανπερ δειράδ', ως ἀν ἐμμαυῆς  
ῦστριξ τις, ἢ καὶ κάπρος ἡγριωμένος.

## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

οὐ μοι μαγεύματ', οὐ τις ἄρρητος τέχνη·  
ἐγὼ τὸν ἀείζων αἰδοῦμαι Θεὸν,  
ὅς ξύμφυτόν μοι ὀδώκε τὸ σθένος τόδε, 1190  
οὐδὲ ἥσσον, ἢ τὸ σὸν, δι' ὅστέων ῥαφὰς  
ἄρθρων τε νεῦρα διαχυθὲν, ταύτην ἔως  
ἔσωσ' ἔθειραν, ώνπερ ὄρκον ἄμοσα  
πίστιν βεβαίαν· σὸν μὲν οὖν πορευτέον  
πρὸς τὸν Δάγωνος, εἴ γέ σοι Δάγων θεὸς,  
ὄπως ἐλέγξεις τοῦτο, σεμναῖσιν λιταῖς  
ἀρωγὸν ἐπικαλῶν σφε, κάκτείνας μακρὰν  
ώς κάρτα δεῖ νιν ὃν κλέος τηρεῖν ταῦν,  
λύοντ' ἐπωδὰς τάσδε κάπωθούμενον.  
αἱ δ' οὐκ ἐπωδαὶ, τοῦ δὲ πατρῷου Θεοῦ 1200  
τοῦργον τὸ καὶ Δάγωνος ἀντειπόντος ἀν  
δείξαίμι, τόν τ' ἀντίπαλον, ὃν προείλετο,  
σὲ, θεὸν ἔχοντα παντελῆ παραστάτην,  
ἴσοις ἀγῶσιν ἀνταμιλλᾶσθαι καλῶ.  
ἰδεῖν γὰρ, ἢ κλαίων ἀν αἰσθέσθαι γ' ἔχοις,

Soon feel, whose God is strongest, thine or mine.

HARAPHA.

Presume not on thy God. Whate'er he be  
 Thee he regards not, owns not, hath cut off  
 Quite from his people, and delivered up  
 Into thy enemies' hand ; permitted them  
 To put out both thine eyes, and fettered send thee  
 Into the common prison, there to grind                   1161  
 Among the slaves and asses, thy comrades,  
 As good for nothing else, no better service,  
 With those thy boisterous locks; no worthy match  
 For valour to assail, nor by the sword  
 Of noble warrior, so to stain his honour,  
 But by the barber's razor best subdued.

SAMSON.

All these indignities, for such they are  
 From thine, these evils I deserve and more,  
 Acknowledge them from God inflicted on me           1170  
 Justly, yet despair not of his final pardon,  
 Whose ear is ever open, and his eye  
 Gracious to re-admit the suppliant;

τὸν ἐμόν τε τὸν σὸν θ', ὁπότερος κρείσσων, θεός.

‘ΗΡΑΦΑΣ.

οὐ σοῦ Θεοῦ γ' ἔκατι σοὶ θαρσεῖν ἔδει,  
ὅς σοῦ παρημέληκεν, ὡς τ' ὥραν νέμει  
ἐνόσφισ', ἀρνεῖται τε μὴ γνῶναι πάνυ,  
καδῶκεν αἰχμάλωτον ὄφθαλμωρύχοις,

1210

ἔνν τοῖς τυχοῦσι δέσμιον, νωμᾶν μύλην,  
δούλων ὅνων θ' ἔταιρον, ὡς τούτῳ μόνῳ  
τὰ νῦν ἀραρότ· οὐδὲ βοστρύχοις ποτὲ  
βέλτιον ἀν χρήσαιο τοῖς ὑπερκόποις  
οὐδὲ ἀν τοιοῦδ' ἀγώνος ἀνθάπτοιτό που,  
ἀνάξιον γάρ, ἀνδρὸς ἀλκίμου δόρυ,  
τὴν εὐγένειαν ὑβρισαι· ξυροῦ δ' ἀκμῆ  
νίκης τις ἀν τύχοι ποτ' εὐπρεπεστέρας.

ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

εὖ μὲν ξύνοιδα τοῖσδε, καὶ τούτων ἔτι  
αἰσχίοσιν, δίκαιον ὑβρισθεὶς νόμον  
τῶν σῶν ὑπ' ἀστῶν, τῷ Θεῷ διακόνων·  
πάρεστι δ' ἐλπὶς, ἐν δίκης καταστροφαῖς,  
κλύων τε γάρ βλέπων τε δέξασθαι φιλεῖ  
τῶν προστροπαίων τὰς παλισσύτους λιτὰς,  
μὴ δυσπροσοίστου κάμε τεύξεσθαι Θεοῦ.

In confidence whereof I once again  
 Defy thee to the trial of mortal fight,  
 By combat to decide whose God is God,  
 Thine, or whom I with Israel's sons adore.

## HARAPHA.

Fair honour that thou dost thy God, in trusting  
 He will accept thee to defend his cause,  
 A murderer, a revolter, and a robber.

1180

## SAMSON.

Tongue-doughty giant, how dost thou prove me these?

## HARAPHA.

Is not thy nation subject to our lords?  
 Their magistrates confessed it, when they took thee  
 As a league-breaker, and delivered bound  
 Into our hands: for hadst thou not committed  
 Notorious murder on those thirty men  
 At Ascalon, who never did thee harm,  
 Then like a robber strippedst them of their robes?  
 The Philistines, when thou hadst broke the league,  
 Went up with armed powers thee only seeking,  
 To others did no violence nor spoil.

1190

φὸ δὴ πεποιθὼς, δευτέροις κηρύγμασιν  
αὐτὸν κελεύω σ', δόπότερός γ' ἔσται θεὸς,  
εἴτ' οὖν σὸς, εἴτ' ἐμῆς ὃς αἰσνυμινὰ χθονὸς,  
στερράς ἐλέγχειν ἐσχάτη κρίσει μάχης.

## 'ΗΡΑΦΑΣ.

ἡ κάρτα τιμῆς τὸν σὸν ἀξιοῦς Θεὸν, 1230  
σέ νιν δοκῶν ἀν πρόμαχον αἰνέσαι ποτὲ,  
ληστήν τε παράνομόν τε καὶ μιαιφόνον.

## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

πῶς δὴ, θρασύστομ', ὡς τὸ σῶμα' ὑπερφυής;

## 'ΗΡΑΦΑΣ.

ὑμῶν ἀνάσσουν' οἵ γε τῇδε κοίρανοι·  
τούτῳ δὲ συμφωνοῦσιν οἱ 'ν ὑμῶν πάλαι  
ἄρχοντες, οἱ δὲ δήσαντες, ὥστε σοῦ κρατεῖν  
ἥμῶν παρέδοσάν σ', ὃς παρὰ σπονδῶν υόμους  
ἀνδρας τριάκοντ' Ἀσκαλωνίτας, σέθιν γ'  
ἀζημίους, πάντη δὲ δημόθρουν τόδε,  
ἔκτεινας, ὡς δὲ φῶρ ἐσύλησας σταλήν. 1240  
σὲ δ' αὐτὸν μετῆλθον οἱ Φιλιστῖνοι μόνον,  
ὅπλ' ἐπιφέροντες, τὸν παρεκβεβηκότα·  
αὐτοὶ δὲ λείας ὑβρεώς τ' ἀνατιοι.

## SAMSON.

Among the daughters of the Philistines  
I chose a wife, which argued me no foe ;  
And in your city held my nuptial feast.  
But your ill-meaning politician lords,  
Under pretence of bridal friends and guests,  
Appointed to await me thirty spies,  
Who, threatening cruel death, constrained the bride  
To wring from me, and tell to them, my secret,  
That solved the riddle which I had proposed.      1200  
When I perceived all set on enmity.  
As on my enemies, wherever chanced,  
I used hostility, and took their spoil,  
To pay my underminers in their coin.  
My nation was subjected to your lords—  
It was the force of conquest ; force with force  
Is well ejected when the conquered can.  
But I, a private person, whom my country  
As a league-breaker gave up bound, presumed  
Single rebellion, and did hostile acts—      1210  
I was no private, but a person raised,  
With strength sufficient, and command from Heaven,  
To free my country ; if their servile minds

## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

ἐχθρὸς μὲν οὐκ ἦ, τῶν Φιλιστίνων χθονὶ<sup>1250</sup>  
δάμαρθ' ἐλόμενος, καν γάμοις ἔορτάσας·  
ὑμῶν δ' ἄνακτες κακοφρονοῦντες αἰμύλοι  
ἔμοιγ' ἐνέδρας ἀς λέγεις ἐσκεύασαν·  
οὗτοι δ' ἀπειλαῖς ἐβιάσαντο τὴν υδὸν  
ῶς σφε κτανεῖν ἔμελλον, ἐκμαθεῖν ἐμοῦ  
κρυπτὸν σόφισμα καὶ λύσεις αἰνυγμάτων.  
αὐτοῖσι δ', ἐκμαθοῦσα, διέδωκεν τόδε·  
ἐχθραν δ' ἵδων μοι πάντα μηχανώμενον,  
αὐτὸς τὸν ἀεὶ παρατυχόνθ' ἥγονύμενος  
ἐχθρὸν, τὰ κείνων σκῦλ' ἀφειλόμην ἐγὼ,  
ἰσόσταθμ' ἔλκων, τούς τε δρῶντας ἀντιδρῶν.  
βίᾳ δὲ τάμα τοῖσι σοῖσιν ὑπετάγη·  
θέμις τὸν ἥσσω τοῦ κρατήσαντος κρατεῖν,  
καιροῦ τυχόντα· τοῖσδε δ' εἴ τις ἀντερεῖ,  
όθούνεκ' ἵδιώτην με καὶ σπονδῶν παρέξ<sup>1260</sup>  
καὶ χωρὶς ἄλλων εἰς στάσιν πεπτωκότα  
δεσμοῖς πολῆται, πολέμιόν τε, παρέδοσαν—  
ἄλλ' οὐ τοιοῦτός εἰμι, θεόδοτος δ' ἀνὴρ  
σθένων τε θεῖον, τὴν πάτραν ἐλευθεροῦν·  
κεὶ δούλιον τὸ λῆμα, μηδὲ ἐσταλμένου

Me their deliverer sent would not receive,  
 But to their masters gave me up for nought,  
 The unworthier they; whence to this day they serve.  
 I was to do my part from Heaven assigned,  
 And had performed it, if my known offence  
 Had not disabled me, not all your force.  
 These shifts refuted, answer thy appellant,      1220  
 Though by his blindness maimed for high attempts,  
 Who now defies thee thrice to single fight,  
 As a petty enterprise of small enforce.

**HARAPHA.**

With thee, a man condemned, a slave enrolled,  
 Due by the law to capital punishment?  
 To fight with thee no man of arms will deign.

**SAMSON.**

Cam'st thou for this, vain boaster, to survey me,  
 To descant on my strength, and give thy verdict?  
 Come nearer, part not hence so slight informed,  
 But take good heed my hand survey not thee.      1230

**HARAPHA.**

O Baal-zebub! can my ears unused

ρυτῆρ' ἔδεξαντ', ἀντιδόντες οὐδενὸς  
τοῖς δεσποταῖσιν, αἰτίους μᾶλλον τις ἀν  
ὁρθῶς, τὸ θ' ἔξῆς κεῖται τὰ νῦν δούλους λέγοι.  
ἔδει με κραίνειν τάκ Θεοῦ προστάγματα,  
οὐδὲ ἀν τι τῶνδε ἡμαρτον· οὐδὲ ἐχθρῶν βίᾳ  
ἐπταιστα δ' ὁδὸς αὐτουργός· ἐν προῦπτῳ τόδε. 1270  
ταῖσδε οὖν ἐλεγχθεὶς μὴ παρεξέλθειν τέχναις,  
τούτῳ φράσαι' ἀν πῶς ἀν ἀντείποις ἔτι,  
τυφλῷ τε, μήτ' ἔχοντι γενναῖόν τινα  
ἀγώνα τολμᾶν, ἀλλ' ὅμως τρίταις βοαις  
προκαλούμενῷ σ' ἐς μονομάχων δῆριν χερᾶν·  
φλαῦρ' ἔστι ταῦτα, καὶ μάλ' εὐτελῆ ποιεῖν.

## 'ΗΡΑΦΑΣ.

σὲ ζημιωθένθ' ὥστε καὶ δούλον θανεῖν  
οὐκ ἔσθ' ὄπλίτης ὃς μάχης ἀν ἀξιοῦ.

## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

ώς οἰν θεωρήσων με, καὶ μακρῷ λόγῳ  
όποιός εἴμι ψηφιῶν, ὑψήγορος 1280  
ἡλθεις; πελάζειν δεῖ σε, καὶ σκεθρῶς σκοπεῖν.  
ὅρα δὲ μή σε διὰ χερῶν αὐτὸς σκοπῶ.

## 'ΗΡΑΦΑΣ.

φεῦ τοῦ πατρόφου τῆσδε τῆς χώρας θεοῦ.

Hear these dishonours, and not render death?

**SAMSON.**

No man withholds thee, nothing from thy hand  
Fear I incurable. Bring up thy van;  
My heels are fettered, but my fist is free.

**HARAPHA.**

This insolence other kind of answer fits.

**SAMSON.**

Go, baffled coward! lest I run upon thee,  
Though in these chains, bulk without spirit vast,  
And with one buffet lay thy structure low,  
Or swing thee in the air, then dash thee down,  
To the hazard of thy brains and shattered sides.

1240

**HARAPHA.**

By Astaroth, ere long thou shalt lament  
These braveries, in irons loaden on thee.

**CHORUS.**

His giantship is gone somewhat crest-fallen,  
Stalking with less unconscionable strides,  
And lower looks, but in a sultry chafe.

**SAMSON.**

I dread him not, nor all his giant brood,

πῶς ὁδὸς ὀνειδίσαντά μ' οὐκ εἰωθότα  
οὐκ ἀν δίκαιου ἀντιτισθίμην μύρου;

## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

ἀλλ' οὐ τίς ἐσθ' ὃς δρᾶν σ' ἀπεννέπει τόδε.  
οὐδὲ ἀν ἄγγες κράτιστά μ' ἐκφοβεῖν ἔχει,  
πόδας δεθέντα, τῷ δὲ χειρὶ ἐλεύθερον.

## ‘ΗΡΑΦΑΣ.

ἔργοισι τοιάδ', οὐ λόγοισι, δεκτέον.

## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

ἔρρ' οὖν ἄπρακτος, ὅγκος ἄψυχος μέγας, 1290  
δεῖλαιε, μή σε καὶ πέδαισι δέσμιος  
ἄπαξ πατάξας ἐπιδραμὼν χαμαὶ βάλω,  
ἢ καὶ στροβούμενόν τε καὶ μετάρσιον  
πλευραῖσι καταράξας σε συνθραύσω κάρα.

## ‘ΗΡΑΦΑΣ.

κλαίοις ἀν, εἰ κλύνουσί μου θεοὶ, τάδ' οἵς  
ἐμπερπερεύει, δυσλύτοις χαλκεύμασι.

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ἴδενν ταπεινὸς, μείστιν θ' ὄρμαῖς ποδῶν,  
δεινὸν χολωθεὶς, ἐπτάπηχυς, οἴχεται.

## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

ὁ δ' οὐκ ἔμοιγ', οὐδὲ ἡ γυγαντεία σπορὰ

Though fame divulged him father of five sons  
All of gigantic size, Goliah chief.

## CHORUS.

He will directly to the lords, I fear,  
And with malicious counsel stir them up  
Some way or other yet further to afflict thee.

1250

## SAMSON.

He must allege some cause, and offered fight  
Will not dare mention, lest a question rise  
Whether he durst accept the offer or not ;  
And that he durst not plain enough appeared.  
Much more affliction than already felt  
They cannot well impose, nor I sustain ;  
If they intend advantage of my labours,  
The work of many hands, which earns my keeping,

With no small profit daily to my owners.

1261

But, come what will, my deadliest foe will prove  
My speediest friend, by death to rid me hence ;  
The worst that he can give, to me the best.  
Yet so it may fall out, because their end  
Is hate, not help to me, it may with mine  
Draw their own ruin who attempt the deed.



δεινὴ πέφυκε, καίπερ ἕκτος αὐτὸς ὡν,1300  
ώς δὴ φατίζουσ', ἐν δὲ πρωτεύων Γόλας.

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

δέδοικα μὴ πρὸς κοιράνους φθάσῃ μολὼν,  
σὲ δὴ παραινέσων νιν αἰμύλῳ λόγῳ  
ποίῳ τρόπῳ δράσουσι καὶ πλείω κακά.

## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

δεδὺ δέ νιν σκῆψιν τιν' ἔξευρεῖν, μάχην  
οὐκ ἄν τι σημήνειε τὴν προκειμένην,  
ώς τοῖς ἀνιστοροῦσι μὴ φράξειν ἔχων  
πῶς ἐκβέβηκε, δῆλος ὧν ὑπεκφυγών.  
μόλις δ' ἀν αἰτοὶ τῶν γε νῦν πλείω πάθη  
ἐπεισφέροιεν, οὐδὲ ἄρ' ἀν τλαίην ἐγὼ,1310  
μέλλων γε ταῦτα διατελεῖν πονούμενος  
τά γ' ἀντὶ πολλῶν ἐργατῶν χειρουργίας  
τιμώμεν', ὥστε τῆς καθ' ήμέραν τροφῆς  
τοὺς δεσπότας μου πλέον ἀπαύρασθαι πολύ.  
ἐγὼ δ', ἐκείνῳ ξυντυχὼν ὃς ἀν διδῷ  
θάνατον τάχιστα, φίλτατον προσδέξομαι·  
ἄριστά μοι τάχθιστα· συμβαίη δέ τῷ  
τάχ' ἀν, κατ' ἄλλων μηχανωμένῳ δύας,  
αὐτὸν τυχεῖν ποθ' ὧν ἐπρασσ' αὐτὸς κακῶν.

## CHORUS.

Oh how comely it is, and how reviving  
To the spirits of just men long oppressed,  
When God into the hands of their deliverer      1270  
Puts invincible might,  
To quell the mighty of the earth, the oppressor,  
The brute and boisterous force of violent men,  
Hardy and industrious to support  
Tyrannic power, but raging to pursue  
The righteous, and all such as honour truth !  
He all their ammunition  
And feats of war defeats,  
With plain heroic magnitude of mind  
And celestial vigour armed,      1280  
Their armouries and magazines contemns,  
Renders them useless ; while  
With winged expedition,  
Swift as the lightning glance, he executes

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

κάλλιστα, πιεζομέ- 1320  
 -νοις χρονισθείσῃ βίᾳ  
 οὐκ ἀδίκοισιν, πρόμαχον ἔ-  
 -δωκεν Θεὸς ἀστυφέλικτον,  
 ψυχὰς παραθέλγων,  
 τὸν ὑπερφίαλον κρατύνοντ'  
 ἀνδρῶν κατέχειν, τρόπον  
 θηρός του θορύβῳ μαιέντα  
 ἀψευδῶν κάτα καὶ δικαιων,  
 τὰ τυραννίδος ἔκνομα  
 αὐξάνειν σπεύδοντ' ἄγαν. 1330  
 τοῖος ἀρωγὸς πολεμικῶν  
 σκευῶν τ' ἔργων θ' ὑπερέσχεν  
 μεγαλόψυχος γάρ  
 θυμόν τ' ἀφελῆς ἄθ' ἡρως,  
 ίν' ἀθάνατον σθένων,  
 θήκας ὅπλοφόρους παρ' οὐδὲν  
 ἀχρείους ἔθετ'. ἐν δὲ τούτῳ  
 οἷον φλογῶπες ἀστραπαὶ,  
 ὠκυπτέροις βρυλεύμασι

His errand on the wicked, who surprised  
Lose their defence, distracted and amazed.

But patience is more oft the exercise  
Of Saints, the trial of their fortitude,  
Making them each his own deliverer,  
And victor over all

1290

That tyranny or fortune can inflict.  
Either of these is in thy lot,  
Samson, with might endued  
Above the sons of men ; but sight bereaved  
May chance to number thee with those  
Whom patience finally must crown.

This idol's day hath been to thee no day of rest,  
Labouring thy mind

More than the working day thy hands.

And yet perhaps more trouble is behind ;

1300  
For I descry this way  
Some other tending : in his hand  
A sceptre or quaint staff he bears,

τοὺς ἀμπλακόντας

1340

ἀδημονοῦντας ἀνεκφεύκτους

τὸ τεταγμένον οἱ θεήλατον δρᾶ.

θαμὰ δὲ βάσανος ὅσιον ἐλοῦσ'

ἄνδρα τινα, δοκιμάσασα τὸ

ταλασίφρον νιν, τὸ λυπεῖσθαι λέγω,

σωτῆρ' αὐτὸν ἔαυτῷ παρέχει

τύχας ἄπ' ἦ τυράννων

σοὶ τῇδ' ἀν ἦν καὶ θατέρᾳ,

ὑπὲρ βροτοὺς ἐρρώμενῳ,

Σάμψων· σὺ δ' ὁσσων

1350

βλάβαις λάχοις ἐνὶ τούτοις ἀν

οἰσι στέφανος τὸ καρτερῆσαι.

φρενὶ δὲ πολύπονον ἀμέραν

πολύθυτον ἔλαχες, ὡς τόσον

χερσὶν οὐπώποτ' ἥντληκας μόγον·

ἔτι δ' ἐκ τούτων, ὡς μὲν ἔοικεν,

κάκ' ἀν γένοιτο μείζω.

καὶ γάρ τιν' ἄλλον δεῦρο πορευόμενον

λεύσσω, ποδῶν λαιψηροδρόμοις μελέταις

σπερχθέντ' ἵδεῖν, καὶ

1360

σκῆπτρόν τι νωμῶντα δαίδαλον.

Comes on amain, speed in his look.  
 By his habit I discern him now  
 A public officer, and now at hand.  
 His message will be short and voluble.

## OFFICER.

Hebrews, the prisoner Samson here I seek.

## CHORUS.

His manacles remark him, there he sits.

## OFFICER.

Samson, to thee our lords thus bid me say :                   1310  
 This day to Dagon is a solemn feast,  
 With sacrifices, triumph, pomp, and games :  
 Thy strength they know surpassing human rate,  
 And now some public proof thereof require  
 To honour this great feast, and great assembly.  
 Rise therefore with all speed, and come along,  
 Where I will see thee heartened and fresh clad,  
 To appear as fits before the illustrious lords.

## SAMSON.

Thou knowest I am a Hebrew, therefore tell them,  
 Our law forbids at their religious rites                   1320  
 My presence ; for that cause I cannot come.



ὅστις ποτ' ἔστι, σχῆμα' ἐσιδῶν ἔμαθον,  
ώς γὰρ παρόντος αὐδῶ.  
τῶν ἐν τέλει μοι φαίνεται, καὶ σύντομος  
ρήματα καὶ ταχύφωνος ἔσται.

## KHPTΞ.

ἥκω τὸν αἰχμάλωτον, Ἔβραιοι, μέτα.

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ἐκεῖ σφὲ θάσσοντ' ἔστι δεσμώτην τ' ἵδεῖν.

## KHPTΞ.

ἄνακτες ἀγγέλλουσι σοι, Σάμψων, τάδε·  
Δάγωνι μὲν θύουσι τῇδ' ἐν ἡμέρᾳ,  
ἀγώσι δ' εὐπόμπῳ τε καυχῶνται χαρᾶ· 1370  
καὶ δὴ μαθόντες σ' οὐ κατ' ἀνθρώπου μέτρον  
σθένοντα, φανερὸν τοῦδε τάσσουσιν τέκμαρ,  
ἄγαλμ' ἐορτῇ, τῇ τε νῦν πανηγύρει.  
ἄγ' οὖν, ἐγερθεὶς ἄσκυνος, ὡς σ' ἀν εὐσταλῆ  
φαιδρόν τε δείξω τοῖσι κοιράνοις, ἔπου.

## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

Ἐβραῖος είμι, τοῦτο γὰρ σάφ' οἰσθα δύ·  
πρὸς ταῦτα μηδ' ἔχειν με πατρῷφῳ νόμῳ  
ἱεροῖς παρεῖναι τῶν σε πεμψάντων, φράσον.

OFFICER.

This answer, be assured, will not content them.

SAMSON.

Have they not sword-players, and every sort  
Of gymnic artists, wrestlers, riders, runners,  
Jugglers and dancers, antics, mummers, mimics,  
But they must pick me out, with shackles tired,  
And over-laboured at their public mill,  
To make them sport with blind activity?  
Do they not seek occasion of new quarrels  
On my refusal to distress me more,  
Or make a game of my calamities?  
Return the way thou cam'st, I will not come.

1330

OFFICER.

Regard thyself; this will offend them highly.

SAMSON.

Myself? my conscience and internal peace.  
Can they think me so broken, so debased  
With corporal servitude, that my mind ever  
Will condescend to such absurd commands?  
Although their drudge, to be their fool or jester,

## ΚΗΡΤΞ.

ἀλλ' ἵσθι μὴ μέλλοντας αἰνέσειν τάδε.

## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

οὐκουν ὑπάρχουσ' οἵ ξιφῶν εὐ τ' εὐδότες,      1380  
 κωμῳδολοιχοῦντές τε καὶ πάλης ἔδρεις,  
 δρομεῖς ξὺν ὄρχησταῖσιν, ἵπποβάμονες,  
 γυμναστικὸι μῆμοί τε, παντοῖον γένος;  
 τί δεῖ νῦν ἐν μυλῶν δεσμίοις τ' ἐμὲ  
 πόνοις ἀπειπόντ' ἐκκριθέντα δεικνύναι,  
 ἄθλοις γελωτοποιὸν ὥδ' ἀνόμματον;  
 ζητοῦσ' ἀφορμὰς τοῦ πάλιν διχοστατεῖν,  
 ἐμ' οὐα μὴ κλίοντα πημαίνειν πλέον,  
 κακοῖς ἐφυβρίζοντες ἀλλ' ἀπελθε σὺ,  
 ἢ καὶ προσῆλθες· οὐκ ἐμοὶ πορευτέον.      1390

## ΚΗΡΤΞ.

σαυτοῦ προκήδουν· κάρθ' ὑβριστικὸν τόδε.

## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

ἐμοῦγ· ἐπεὶ ξύνοιδα τāλυπον φρονῶν.  
 ἀρ' οὐχὶ πάντως ταῖσι τῶν μελῶν δύαις  
 κατεαγόθ' ἡγοῦνταί με καπεφθαρμένον,  
 τοίων ἐφετμῶν ἀτοπίᾳ μ' ὑπεικαθεῖν;  
 αἰσχρόν με, πρὸς τῷ δουλίων πόνων κυρεῖν,

And, in my midst of sorrow and heart-grief,  
To shew them feats, and play before their god,      1340  
The worst of all indignities, yet on me  
Joined with extreme contempt? I will not come.

OFFICER.

My message was imposed on me with speed,  
Brooks no delay. Is this thy resolution?

SAMSON.

So take it with what speed thy message needs.

OFFICER.

I am sorry what this stoutness will produce.

SAMSON.

Perhaps thou shalt have cause to sorrow indeed.

CHORUS.

Consider, Samson; matters now are strained  
Up to the highth, whether to hold or break.  
He's gone, and who knows how he may report      1350  
Thy words by adding fuel to the flame?  
Expect another message more imperious,  
More lordly thundering than thou well wilt bear.

SAMSON.

Shall I abuse this consecrated gift

σκώπτοντα καὶ βωμόλοχον ὡς ἀθύρμασι  
παιζειν ἔναντα τοῦδε τοῦ τούτων θεοῦ,  
καὶ ταῦτ' ἀπαυστον καρδίας τρέφοντ' ἄχος.  
λίαν με καταφρονοῦσιν· οὐ πορεύσομαι.

1400

## ΚΗΡΤΞ.

οὐ με σχολάζειν οἱ πιτρέψαντες τάδε  
ἔταξαν· ἀρ' οὖν σοι δεδογμένου λέγεις;

## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

δεδογμένουν τάχυνε δ', εἰ τάχους σε δεῖ.

## ΚΗΡΤΞ.

ἄκοντι μοι γ', ἀ τοῦδε ἀν ἐκβαίη θράσους.

## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

ἄκοντι γ' ἔσται, παρὰ τὸ προσδοκάμενον.

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

μέμνησο, Σάμψων, ὡς ἐπ' ἔσχατον τάδε,  
εἴτ' οὖν φυλάξων εἴτε μὴ, τείνας ἔχεις.  
τίς οἶδ', ἀπελθῶν ὅδε σ' ἀπαγγελεῖ τίνα  
λόγον φράσαντα, προστιθεὶς ὕλην φλογί;  
ἄλλην ἄφυκτον, ὡς ἀφ' ὑψηλοφρόνων,  
βαρύκτυπόν τε προσδέχουν τιν' ἐντολήν.

1410

## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

μὴ μοι γένοιτο, τῶν κομῶν ὁμόστολον

Of strength, again returning with my hair,  
 After my great transgression? so requite  
 Favour renewed, and add a greater sin  
 By prostituting holy things to idols,  
 A Nazarite, in place abominable,  
 Vaunting my strength in honour to their Dagon?      1360  
 Besides how vile, contemptible, ridiculous,  
 What act more execrably unclean, profane?

## CHORUS.

Yet with this strength thou serv'st the Philistines,  
 Idolatrous, uncircumcised, unclean.

## SAMSON.

Not in their idol-worship, but by labour  
 Honest and lawful to deserve my food  
 Of those who have me in their civil power.

## CHORUS.

Where the heart joins not, outward acts defile not.

## SAMSON.

Where outward force constrains, the sentence holds.  
 But who constrains me to the temple of Dagon,      1370  
 Not dragging? the Philistine lords command—  
 Commands are no constraints. If I obey them,

γέρας τόδ' ίερὸν ἀναλαβόντα τοῦ κράτους,  
 ὃ σφόδρ' ἀμαρτῶν ὥλεσ', ημπολημένου  
 ρήψαι, χάριν τίσαντα πλείοσιν βλαβαῖς,  
 τιμῶντα τούτους, ὡς θεοὺς, τοὺς οὐδένας.  
 οὐ δὴ πρέπει με γαυριᾶν, σθένοντά περ,  
 Δάγωνι Ναζωραῖον, ἐν στυγνῷ τόπῳ.  
 οὐδὲ ἔστ' ὅπως δράσαιμ' ἀν αἰσχίω τινα  
 τὸν Θεὸν, ἄτιμος καὶ κατάπτυστος βροτοῖς. 1420

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

τοιοῦτος ὧν, σὺ τοῖς Φιλιστίνοις λάτρις,  
 ἀθέοις ἀπεριτμήτοις τε καὶ δυσωνύμοις.

## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

τὸ δ' οὐχὶ θρησκείας ποτ', ἀλλ' ἵν' ἐννόμου  
 ἔχοιμ' ἔδωδην ἀντὶ χειρωναξίας  
 τοῖς ὡς μετοίκους δεσπόταις κρατοῦσί μουν.

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

τὸ λῆμ' ἀθῷος, οὐδὲ δρῶν ἀμαρτάνεις.

## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

ὸρθῶς, ἀνάγκαις περιπεσῶν ἄλλων βίᾳ.  
 οἴεναι δὲ τόνδ' εἰς ναὸν οὔτιν' ἔστ' ἔδειν  
 δστις μ' ἀν, ἔλκειν μὴ οὐ θέλων, ἀναγκάσαι.  
 ἐπεὶ κελεύματ' ἔστιν, οὐ βίᾳ, τάδε,

I do it freely, venturing to displease  
 God for the fear of man, and man prefer;  
 Set God behind; which, in his jealousy,  
 Shall never, unrepented, find forgiveness.  
 Yet that he may dispense with me, or thee,  
 Present in temples at idolatrous rites,  
 For some important cause, thou need'st not doubt.

## CHORUS.

How thou wilt here come off surmounts my reach. 1380

## SAMSON.

Be of good courage; I begin to feel  
 Some rousing motions in me, which dispose  
 To something extraordinary my thoughts.  
 I with this messenger will go along,  
 Nothing to do, be sure, that may dishonour  
 Our law, or stain my vow of Nazarite.  
 If there be aught of presage in the mind,  
 This day will be remarkable in my life  
 By some great act, or of my days the last.

## CHORUS.

In time thou hast resolved; the man returns.

1390

## OFFICER.

Samson, this second message from our lords

ταγοῖς ἀν εἴην τοῖς Φιλιστίνοις ἐκών  
ὑπήκοος, βροτούς τε τοῦ Θεοῦ προθεὶς,  
βροτῶν φόβῳ, Θεῷ τε μισητὸς γεγώς·  
ἢν κάρτ' ἀν ἐκπράξαντα μὴ λυθὲν χρέος  
ἐγγῆδα, καίπερ εὐ πεπεισμένος τινὶ<sup>ν</sup>  
ἱεροῖς πάροντι τοῖς βεβήλοισιν Θεὸν  
ξυγγνώμον' εἶναι, καιρίου τινὸς χάριν.

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

πῶς δὴ φυγὴν εὔροις ἀν, οὐκ ἔχω φράσαι.

## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

θάρσει· νέον γὰρ ἐννοῶν ξύνοιδά τι  
καὶ δεινὸν, ἔργων φροίμι' οὐκ εἰωθότων. 1440  
οὐπαδὸς εἴμι τῷδε τῷ κακαγρέλῳ,  
οὐδὲν ποιήσων τοὺς νόμοις ἐναντίον,  
σαφὲς τόδ', οὐδ' ἄρ' οἰσιν ὅμοσ' ἀπρεπές·  
εἰ δ' ὁρθόμαντιν ἐν φρεσὶν γνώμην τρέφω,  
κλέος περισσὸν σήμερον κιχήσομαι  
λαμπρόν τι δράσας, εἰ δὲ μὴ, μόρου τέλος.

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

καιρὸν δέδοκται· τόνδ' ὁρῶ παλίσσυτον.

## ΚΗΡΤΞ.

Σάμψων, ἀνακτεις δεύτερ' ἀγγέλλουσί σοι·

To thee I am bid say. Art thou our slave,  
Our captive, at the public mill our drudge,  
And darest thou at our sending and command  
Dispute thy coming? Come without delay;  
Or we shall find such engines to assail  
And hamper thee, as thou shalt come of force,  
Though thou wert firmlier fastened than a rock.

## SAMSON.

I could be well content to try their art,  
Which to no few of them would prove pernicious. 1400  
Yet, knowing their advantages too many,  
Because they shall not trail me through their streets  
Like a wild-beast, I am content to go.  
Masters' commands come with a power resistless  
To such as owe them absolute subjection;  
And for a life who will not change his purpose?  
So mutable are all the ways of men.—  
Yet this be sure, in nothing to comply  
Scandalous or forbidden in our law.

## OFFICER.

I praise thy resolution. Doff these links.

1410

ἀρ' οὐχὶ δοῦλος, οὐχὶ δοριάλωτος εἰ,  
μυλῶνα καὶ δημόσιον ἐκτρίβων κόπου;      1450  
πῶς οὐ προσῆλθες, τὸν πρὸν αἰδεσθέεις λόγου;  
ἀλλ' ἵσθι, μή γ' ἐλθόντος ἐν τάχει σέθεν,  
ἡμᾶς τοιῶνδε μηχανῶν τεχνάσματα  
καὶ δέσμ' ἀν ἔξευρόντας, ὥστε καὶ βίᾳ  
ἄγειν σε, καὶ περ φέταν πεπηγότα.

## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

ἐμοὶ μὲν ἄγων ἀσμένω, σάφ' εἰδότε  
πολλοὺς ὀδύρματ' ἐσόμεν', οἵ' ἐκβήσεται.  
ἀλλ', οὐ γάρ ἐλκηθμοῦσιν ἀγρίου τρόπου  
θηρός σφε δεῖ με περιάγειν πόλιν κάτα,  
τύχης ροπῇ κρατοῦντας, οὐκ ἀρνήσομαι.      1460  
ἡμᾶς ἀμήχανον γάρ ἐστιν ἀντέχειν  
τοὺς δεσπόταισι τοὺς τὸ πᾶν ὑπηκόους.  
πολλὰὶ μέν εἰσιν ἐν βροτοῦς περιστροφαῖς  
χαίρων δὲ πᾶς τις, χῶν βεβούλευται ποιεῖν  
τὸ ζῆν ἀν ἀντηλλάξατο· ἐν δὲ τῷ κλύειν  
τῶν σῶν, ἐπίστω μηδὲν ἐνδώσοντά με,  
μήτ' αἰσχρὰ, μήτ' ἐναντί' Ἐβραίων νόμοις.

## ΚΗΡΤΞ.

τὼ δέσμ', αἴτ' ὁρθόβουλος, ἐκδίου τάδε·

By this compliance thou wilt win the lords  
To favour, and perhaps to set thee free.

SAMSON.

Brethren, farewell. Your company along  
I will not wish, lest it perhaps offend them  
To see me girt with friends ; and how the sight  
Of me, as of a common enemy,  
So dreaded once, may now exasperate them,  
I know not. Lords are lordliest in their wine ;  
And the well-feasted priest then soonest fired  
With zeal, if aught religion seem concerned :      1420  
No less the people, on their holy-days,  
Impetuous, insolent, unquenchable.  
Happen what may, of me expect to hear  
Nothing dishonourable, impure, unworthy  
Our God, our law, my nation, or myself ;  
The last of me or no I cannot warrant.

CHORUS,

Go, and the Holy One  
Of Israel be thy guide,

σὺ ταῦτα ταῖς ἀρχαῖσιν, εὐνοίας τυχεῖν,  
ρέξαις ἀν, ἦ καὶ τῶνδε τῶν πεδῶν λύσιν. 1470

## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

ύμεις μὲν ἥδη χαίρετ· οὐ τι τῆς ὁδοῦ  
ἔμοι γ' ἐκόντος ξυμμετάσχουτ' ἀν, φίλοι·  
ἐχθροῖς ἀηδῆς ἥδε μοι παρουσία·  
ἴσως δ' ἀν, εἰσορῶντες δὲ κοινὸν πάλαι  
ἐχθρόν σφιν ἡγήσαντ', ἀκραχόλῳ μένει  
ζέσειαν· εὐ γὰρ οἰνοπλῆγας ἔστι τῷ  
γυνῶναι τυράννους ὡς τυραννικώτατοι·  
ώς καὶ θυτῆρες οἱ κορεσθέντες βορᾶς  
μάλιστα δὴ σπεύδουσιν ὅν θεοῖς μέλειν  
χὼ δῆμος, ἔργων τῶν καθ' ἡμέραν λυθεὶς,  
ἀχάλινος ἀσβεστός τε κάσελγης ἄγαν.  
όποι ἀν οὖν τύχῃ ποτ', οὐκ ἀκούσομαι  
οὐδέν τι δράσας οὕτ' ἀεικὲς οὐδαμῶς,  
οὕτ' αὐ Θεοῦ τε τοῦ τε πατρώου νόμου,  
ἀλλ' οὐδ' ἐμαντοῦ τοῦ γένους τ', ἀνάξιον·  
ἀδηλος, εἴτε τάσχατ', εἴτε μὴ, λαχών.

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

τήνδε κέλευθον σοὶ ἔερχομένῳ,  
Δαιμῶν Πάτριος ἡγεμονεύοι,

To what may serve his glory best, and spread his name  
Great among the Heathen round ; 1430  
Send thee the Angel of thy birth, to stand  
Fast by thy side, who from thy father's field  
Rode up in flames, after his message told  
Of thy conception, and be now a shield  
Of fire ; that Spirit, that first rushed on thee  
In the camp of Dan,  
Be efficacious in thee now at need.

For never was from Heaven imparted  
Measure of strength so great to mortal seed,  
As in thy wondrous actions hath been seen. 1440

But wherefore comes old Manoah in such haste  
With youthful steps ? much livelier than ere while  
He seems ; supposing here to find his son,  
Or of him bringing to us some glad news ?

#### MANOAH.

Peace with you, brethren. My inducement hither  
Was not at present here to find my son,  
By order of the lords new parted hence

τὰ μάλιστ' αὐτοῦ κῦδος ἀέξειν  
τοῖσι παροίκοις ἀμφιβόητον.  
καὶ μὴν ἄγγελος ὃς σε γενέθλιος  
ἀμφιβέβηκεν, παρὰ νῦν σταίη,  
σάκος ἀμφιβαλῶν φλογοειδὲς,  
σὴν δις γένεσιν πάλαι ἀγγείλας  
σῆς πατρίας ἀπὸ γῆς ἐπανῆλθεν,

τέρας ἀμφαίνων πυριφεγγές.  
καίριον ἔλθοι τό ποθ' ὅπλοφόρῳ  
πνεῦμά σοι ἔμφυτον· ώς οὐπώποτε  
θυητῶν ὁπόσοι θεοποίητον  
ῥώμην ἔπρεπον, ἡρίστευσαν

θαύμασιν ἔργων  
οἵα σε δράσαντ' ἐσορῶμεν.

ἀλλὰ πῶς; Μάνως γεραίος ἔρχεται σπουδῇ ποδῶν,  
παρὰ δὲ τὸν χρόνον γε τὸν πρὸν κοῦρος ὡς ἀγάλλεται·  
νιὸν, ώς ἐπεικάσαι γέ μ', ἐνθάδ' ἐλπίζων κιχεῖν,  
εἴτ' ἄρ' οὖν εὐάγγελος μάλ' ἡσπερ εἴληχεν τύχης.

### ΜΑΝΩΣ.

εὐδαιμονοίητ', ω φίλοι· τὸν νιὸν οὐχ  
ἥκω ματεύων, δις κελευσάντων ἔβη  
τῶν κοιράνων, ώς πανγνίαν αὐτοῖς πέροι

To come and play before them at their feast.  
I heard all as I came, the city rings,  
And numbers thither flock ; I had no will,                   1450  
Lest I should see him forced to things unseemly.  
But that which moved my coming now was chiefly  
To give ye part with me what hope I have  
With good success to work his liberty.

## CHORUS.

That hope would much rejoice us to partake  
With thee. Say, reverend Sire ; we thirst to hear.

## MANOAH.

I have attempted one by one the lords,  
Either at home, or through the high-street passing,  
With supplication prone and father's tears,  
To accept of ransom for my son their prisoner.           1460  
Some much averse I found, and wondrous harsh,  
Contemptuous, proud, set on revenge and spite ;  
That part most reverenced Dagon and his priests :  
Others more moderate seeming, but their aim

ἐν ταῖς ἔορταις· πάντα δὲ ἦν ἐμοὶ μαθεῖν      1510  
 ἔρποντι, τὴν πρέπουσαν ἐν πόλει βοήν,  
 ὅχλων τὸ ἀθροίσματος οὐδὲ ἐγὼ ξυνεσπόμην,  
 μή πού νιν εἰσίδοιμι τῶν ἐχθρῶν βίᾳ  
 ἀσχημονοῦντα· τοῦτο δὲ ἐννοούμενος,  
 πῶς ἂν νιν, ἐλπίδος γε τῆσδε μὴ σφαλεῖς,  
 ἐλεύθερον στήσαιμι, κοινωνοὺς δὲ ἔχειν  
 ὑμᾶς θέλων προσῆλθον ὡν αὐτὸς φρονῶ.

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

λέγ', ὡς προθύμοις, ἥδεως τὸν ἐλπίδος  
 σοὶ τῆσδε συλλαβοῦσιν, αἰδοῦν κάρα.

## ΜΑΝΩΣ.

ἐγὼ κατ' ἄνδρ' ἄνακτας, εἴτ' οἴκοι τυχῶν,      1520  
 εἴτ' αὖ κατ' ἄστυ, γονυπετῶν κλαυθμῷ λιτῶν  
 συχνὸν μάλιστα, δεσμίον πατήρ  
 παιδὸς φέρων ἄποινα· τῶν δὲ εὑρόν τινας,  
 τοὺς καὶ Δάγωνα χοῦς ἔχει θυοσκόους  
 μάλιστα προσκυνοῦντας, εἰς πικρὰν χολὴν  
 τετραμμένους, κακοῖσιν ἀντιδρᾶν κακὰ,  
 ὑπερφρονοῦντας, ὡστε θαυμάζειν ἐμέ.  
 ἄλλοι δὲ ἔδοξαν τούπιεικὲς ἀμφέπειν,  
 ἔργῳ δὲ πᾶς τις κέρδος ἴδιον, οὐ χάριν

Private reward, for which both God and State  
They easily would set to sale; a third  
More generous far and civil, who confessed  
They had enough revenged, having reduced  
Their foe to misery beneath their fears,  
The rest was magnanimity to remit,                            1470  
If some convenient ransom were proposed.  
What noise or shout was that? it tore the sky.

## CHORUS.

Doubtless the people shouting to behold  
Their once great dread, captive and blind before them;  
Or at some proof of strength before them shewn.

## MANOAH.

His ransom, if my whole inheritance  
May compass it, shall willingly be paid  
And numbered down. Much rather I shall choose  
To live the poorest in my tribe, than richest,  
And he in that calamitous prison left.                            1480  
No, I am fixed not to part hence without him.  
For his redemption all my patrimony,  
If need be, I am ready to forego

Θεὸν φιλοῦσι τὴν πόλιν τ' ἀπεμπολάν.1530  
 τρίτοι δὲ, τὰστεῖόν τε προῦχοντες πολὺ<sup>ν</sup>  
 τό τ' εὐγενὲς, τόν τ' ἔχθρὸν οὐ φοβούμενοι  
 τὸν ιὖν καταστραφέντα μὴ βλάπτειν ἔτι,  
 ἀπηγόρευσον τῇ πρόσω τιμωρίᾳ·  
 γενναιῶν τριγήσαντο καὶ καλὸν τόδε,  
 ἐφ' φῷ τε λύτρα λαμβάνειν τιν' εἰκότα.  
 ἕα· κραυγῇ διαρράγεντ' ἀν οὐρανὸν λέγοις.

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

δῆλοι γὰρ ἀναβοῶντες οἱ ξυνηγμένοι,  
 ἀνόμματον δεθέντα τὸν δεινὸν πάλαι  
 ὄρωντες, ἡ σθένους τι θαυμαστὸν τέκμαρ.1540

## ΜΑΝΩΣ.

χαιρών ἀν, εἰ καὶ πάνθ' ὅσ' ἐν κλήρῳ πάρα  
 ρῦψαι με δεῦ, τελοῖμ' ἀν, ὥστ' ἐλευθεροῦν  
 τὸν παῖδα· τῶν γὰρ φυλετῶν πενέστατος  
 ζῆν ἀντὶ πλούτου μᾶλλον ἀν προειλόμην,  
 ἡ τόνδ' ἐν ἀθλίαισι διατελεῖν πέδαις.  
 τάδ' οὖν, ἐκὼν γὰρ πάντ' ἀν ἐστερημένος  
 τὰ πατρόθεν τυχόντα, διασώσας γέ νιν,  
 στέρεξαιμ', ἀνάγκης τῆσδέ μοι πικειμένης,  
 ἐμοὶ δέδοκτα, μηδὲ ἄτερθ' αὐτοῦ μολεῖν.

And quit. Not wanting him, I shall want nothing.

CHORUS.

Fathers are wont to lay up for their sons,  
 Thou for thy son art bent to lay out all ;  
 Sons wont to nurse their parents in old age,  
 Thou in old age car'st how to nurse thy son,  
 Made older than thy age through eyesight lost.

MANOAH.

It shall be my delight to tend his eyes,                           1490  
 And view him sitting in the house, ennobled  
 With all those high exploits by him achieved,  
 And on his shoulders waving down those locks,  
 That of a nation armed the strength contained.  
 And I persuade me, God had not permitted  
 His strength again to grow up with his hair,  
 Garrisoned round about him like a camp  
 Of faithful soldiery, were not his purpose  
 To use him further yet in some great service ;  
 Not to sit idle, with so great a gift                           1500  
 Useless, and thence ridiculous, about him.  
 And since his strength with eyesight was not lost,  
 God will restore him eyesight to his strength.

CHORUS.

Thy hopes are not ill-founded, nor seem vain,

*αὐτοῦ παρόντος, οὐδενός με δεῖ ποτε.*

1550

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ὑπέρ γε τέκνων πατέρα δεῖ προμηθίας,  
σὺ δ' ἀντὶ τοῦ σοῦ πάντ' ἀν ἀποβαλεῖν θέλοις·  
παῖδες φιλοῦσι τούς σφε θρέψαντας τρέφειν,  
σοὶ δὲ ή πρόνοια πῶς τὸν υἱὸν ἀν τρέφοις,  
τῶν σῶν ὑπερσχόντ', ὁμμάτων φθορᾶ, χρόνων.

## ΜΑΝΩΣ.

ἐμοὶ γάρ ὁμμάτων μὲν ἀσμένῳ μάλα  
τούτων μελήσει, καὶ τρέφειν καθήμενον  
οἴκοι, μεγανχεῖ θ' ὧν δέδρακ' ἀγάλματι  
πρέποντα, κυμαίνουσαν ὄμοισιν τρίχα  
θαμβοῦντι, τὴν ἐθνῶν ποθ' εἴρξασαν μένος. 1560  
καὶ δὴ πέπεισμαι μήποτ' ἀν στέρξαι Θεὸν  
τόνδ' αὐθις ἴσχύοντα σὺν κομῷν τροφῇ  
τῶν ἀντὶ πιστῆς κράτα πέρι τεταγμένων  
φρουρᾶς, ἐν ἄλλοις εἰ γε μὴ κλεινοῖς τέ νιν  
διακονεῖν ἔσωσεν· οὐδὲ ἀργὸν γέρας  
οἰμαί νιν ἰκλάζοντα καὶ νωθρὸν τρέφειν.  
ώς δὲ οὐξ ἔνεκπεσόντος ὁφθαλμοῖς σθένους,  
εἴη ἔναναλαβεῖν νιν ὁφθαλμοὺς σθένει.

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

εὐ δῆτ' ἔοικας οὔτ' ἄρ' ἐλπίδων μάτην

Of his delivery, and thy joy thereon  
Conceived, agreeable to a father's love,  
In both which we, as next, participate.

**MANOAH.**

I know your friendly minds, and—O, what noise !  
Mercy of Heaven, what hideous noise was that !  
Horribly loud, unlike the former shout.

1510

**CHORUS.**

Noise call you it? or universal groan,  
As if the whole inhabitation perished !  
Blood, death, and deathful deeds, are in that noise.  
Ruin, destruction at the utmost point.

**MANOAH.**

Of ruin indeed methought I heard the noise.  
O it continues, they have slain my son.

**CHORUS.**

Thy son is rather slaying them; that outcry  
From slaughter of one foe could not ascend.

**MANOAH.**

Some dismal accident it needs must be.  
What shall we do, stay here or run and see ?

1520

**CHORUS.**

Best keep together here, lest, running thither

τούτων ἔχεσθαι, τήν θ' ὁμόσπορον χαρὰν      1570  
 καλῶς ἔδειξας, ὡς φιλόσποργος πατήρ.  
 τῶν δὲ ήμιν ἀμφοῦν, οὐα δευτέρους, μέτα.

## ΜΑΝΩΣ.

ἀλλ' εὐμενεῖς μὲν δυτας εὐ γέ ἐπίσταμαι—  
 τί δαλ; τίν' εἰσήκουσα, πρὸς Θεοῦ, κτύπον;  
 λαμπρὸς μὲν ήν καὶ φοβερὸς, οἷος οὐ τὸ πρίν.

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

κτύπον μὲν οὖν, μᾶλλον δὲ πάγκοινόν τινα  
 στόνον, διαφθαρέντος ὡς ὅλου γένους  
 ἐν αἵματωπῷ καὶ πολυκτόνῳ φόνῳ  
 αὔτως κατ' ἄκρας, αὐτόπρεμν' ὀλωλότων.

## ΜΑΝΩΣ.

ὀλωλότων γάρ ὡς, ψόφου κατησθόμην.      1580  
 παπαῦ τὸν νιὸν, οὐ λήγουσι γάρ, κατέκτανον.

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

μᾶλλον γέ ὑπ' αὐτοῦ κατθανόντας ἀν λέγοις.  
 ἐνὸς γάρ οὐκ ἀν ήν ποθ' ἡ δευτὴ βοή.

## ΜΑΝΩΣ.

οἰκτρόν τι συμβέβηκεν, εῦδηλον τόδε.  
 οῦκον ἐκεῖσε, τοῦ βλέπειν, δραμεῖν χρεών;

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

οὐκ, ἀλλὰ τάνθάδ' ἀσφαλέστερ', αἵς ἐκεῖ

We unawares run into danger's mouth.  
This evil on the Philistines is fallen ;  
From whom could else a general cry be heard ?  
The sufferers then will scarce molest us here ;  
From other hands we need not much to fear.  
What if, his eyesight—for to Israel's God  
Nothing is hard—by miracle restored,  
He now be dealing dole among his foes,  
And over heaps of slaughtered walk his way ?

1530

**MANOAH.**

That were a joy presumptuous to be thought.

**CHORUS.**

Yet God hath wrought things as incredible  
For his people of old ; what hinders now ?

**MANOAH.**

He can, I know, but doubt to think he will ;  
Yet hope would fain subscribe, and tempts belief.  
A little stay will bring some notice hither.

**CHORUS.**

Of good or bad so great, of bad the sooner ;

κίνδυνον ἀν λάθοιμεν εἰσπεσόντες ἄν.  
 ἔστιν τόδ', ἔστι, τοῦς Φιλιστίνοις κακὸν,  
 οὐδὲ ήν ἀπ' ἄλλων τόνδ' ἀν ὡρυθμὸν κλύειν.  
 ταύτη μὲν οὖν μένοντας οὐ βλάψουσί πως, 1590  
 αὐτοὶ κακῶς ἔχοντες οὐδὲ ἄλλοι τινές.  
 ἵστω μὲν, οὐ γάρ ἔστι τὸν μέγαν Θεὸν  
 οὐδέν ποτ' εἴ γε μὴ μάλ' εὐχερῶς ποιεῖν,  
 τῶν ὄμράτων οὐ παρὰ φύσιν κατηγμένων,  
 ἐχθροῖσιν ἀντίποινα κατὰ μέρος φέρει,  
 στείχων νενησμένοισιν ἐν νεκροῖς μέσος.

## ΜΑΝΩΣ.

ὑπέρμετρον δὲ τοῦτο, καὶ παρ' ἐλπίδα.

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

Θεὸς δὲ τοιαδ' ἔσθ' ὅτ' εἰργασται πᾶλαι  
 πρὸς τῶν ἑαυτοῦ γ', οὐδὲ ὁ κωλύσων πάρα.

## ΜΑΝΩΣ.

δῆλος σθένων, ἄδηλος εἰ καὶ βούλεται. 1600  
 ὅμως δέ μ' ἐλπὶς ὥστε δέξασθαι τάδε  
 σαινει· μένονσι δ', ἄγγελος τάχ' ἀν μόλοι.

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

φθάνει τὰ λύπρ', ὡς ἐν τόσῃ γε συμφορᾷ·

For evil news rides post, while good news baits.  
And to our wish I see one hither speeding ;  
A Hebrew, as I guess, and of our tribe.

1540

## MESSENGER.

Oh, whither shall I run, or which way fly  
The sight of this so horrid spectacle,  
Which erst my eyes beheld, and yet behold ?  
For dire imagination still pursues me.  
But providence or instinct of nature seems,  
Or reason, though disturbed, and scarce consulted,  
To have guided me aright, I know not how,  
To thee first, reverend Manoah, and to these  
My countrymen, whom here I knew remaining,  
As at some distance from the place of horror,

1550

So in the sad event too much concerned.

## MANOAH.

The accident was loud, and here before thee  
With rueful cry, yet what it was we hear not.  
No preface needs, thou seest we long to know.

## MESSENGER.

It would burst forth, but I recover breath



χρόνια τὰ τερπνὰ, τὸ δὲ κακὸν ταχύπτερον.  
προσέρχεται δὲ Ἐβραῖος, εἰκάσαι γένεται,  
ὅμοφυλος ἡμῖν, καίριός τε συντυχών.

## ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

φεῦ, φεῦ, τίς ἄν μοι, ποῖ δραμόντι, καταφυγὴ<sup>1610</sup>  
γένοιτο ἀν, ὥστε μὴ τὰ τλημονέστατα  
ἰδεῖν, οὐδὲν γάρ διατελῶ λεύσσων ἔτι  
τὰ συντυχόντα, περιφόβῳ φαντάσματι;  
ἀλλ', εἴτ' ἄρ' ἦν τὸ θεῖον, η τὰ τῆς φύσεως,  
εἴτ' αὖ τὸ φρόνιμον—ἀλλὰ σύμβουλον μόγις  
τόδ' ἦν ἐλέσθαι, κάρτα παράκοπον φρενῶν—  
οὐκ οἶδ' ὅπως, δεῦρο ἡλθον εὐπλοίας τυχὰν,  
κιχεῖν σε πρώτον, τὸν μάλα αἰδοῖον, Μάνως,  
καὶ τοὺς πολίτας, ἐνθάδ' οὐς ἡπιστάμην  
μένοντας, οὐ μὲν ἐμφόβων πέλας τόπων,  
ἀλλ' οἷς ὑπέρφευ τῶν πεπραγμένων μέλει.

## ΜΑΝΩΣ.

σὲ μὲν κτύπῳ φθάσαντα καὶ λυγρῷ στόνῳ  
ἴσμεν τὰ συμβεβηκόθ', οἴα δέ ἐστιν, οὐ.<sup>1620</sup>  
μαθεῖν προθύμοις, οὐ τι φροιμίου σε δεῖ.

## ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

οὐδέν ἦν στέγειν τάδ', ἀλλά μὲν ἀμπνεῦσαι χρεὼν

And sense distract, to know well what I utter

MANOAH.

Tell us the sum, the circumstance defer.

MESSENGER.

Gaza yet stands, but all her sons are fallen,  
All in a moment overwhelmed and fallen.

MANOAH.

Sad ; but thou knowest to Israelites not saddest      1560  
The desolation of a hostile city.

MESSENGER.

Feed on that first, there may in grief be surfeit.

MANOAH.

Relate by whom.

MESSENGER.

By Samson,

MANOAH.

That still lessens

The sorrow, and converts it nigh to joy.

MESSENGER.

Ah, Manoah, I refrain too suddenly  
To utter what will come at last too soon ;  
Lest evil tidings, with too rude irruption  
Hitting thy aged ear, should pierce too deep.

*τὸν νοῦν τ' ἀνορθοῦν, ὥστε τάκριβῇ λέγειν.*

## ΜΑΝΩΣ.

*ἀλλ' ἀμβαλῶν ἔκαστα, τὸ ξύμπαν φράσον.*

## ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

*Γάξην ἔτ' οὖσαν, τοὺς δὲ Γαζίτας λέγω  
ξυνολωλότας τοὺς πάντας ἐν βραχεῖ χρόνῳ.*

## ΜΑΝΩΣ.

*ἀλγεινά γ', ἀλλ' οὐ τοῖσιν Ἐβραιοῖς τάδε  
ἄλγιστα, τὴν ἐχθράν τιν' ἐκπέρσαι πόλιν.*

## ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

*περίσσος ἀνὴν τάντεῦθεν ἀρκείτω τόδε.*

## ΜΑΝΩΣ.

*τίνος δὲ τοῦργον;*

## ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

*τοῦδ' ὃς ἐκπέφυκε σοῦ.*

1630

## ΜΑΝΩΣ.

*σχεδὸν χαρά μοι, διάδοχος λύπης, πάρα.*

## ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

*Μάνως, μάλ' ἄκων ἀν διηγοίμην τάχος  
ὅ καὶ χρονισθὲν κάρτ' ἀωρον ἔρχεται·  
καὶ γὰρ γεραιὰ προσβολαῖς κακαγγέλοις  
βλάψαιμ' ἀν ὡτα, διατόρῳ κνίσας φόβῳ.*

MANOAH.

Suspense in news is torture, speak them out.

MESSENGER.

Take then the worst in brief, Samson is dead.

1570

MANOAH.

The worst indeed ! Oh, all my hopes defeated  
To free him hence ! but Death who sets all free  
Hath paid his ransom now and full discharge.  
What windy joy this day had I conceived,  
Hopeful of his delivery, which now proves  
Abortive, as the first-born bloom of spring  
Nipt with the lagging rear of winter's frost !  
Yet, ere I give the reins to grief, say first  
How died he ; death to life is crown or shame.  
All by him fell, thou sayest ; by whom fell he ?  
1580  
What glorious hand gave Samson his death's wound ?

MESSENGER.

Unwounded of his enemies he fell.

MANOAH.

Wearied with slaughter then, or how? explain.

MESSENGER.

By his own hands.

## ΜΑΝΩΣ.

φρενῶν σπαραγμὸς τοῦτο τάσαφές· φράσον.

## ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

ξυνελὼν λέγω τāλγιστα· παῖς τέθνηχ' ὁ σός.

## ΜΑΝΩΣ.

εὐ δὴ λέγεις ἄλγιστα· φροῦδον οἴχεται

τό μοι δοκηθὲν, ὡς ἐλευθεροῦντί νιν.

Θάνατος δὲ, πάντων ὃς κακῶν ἀπαλλαγὴ, 1640

καὶ τόνδ' ὅλως ἔρρύσαθ· ὡν δ' ἀνειλόμην

ἀνεμωλίων γεννήματ' ἐλπίδων νέα

ἀπῆλθεν ἔκβολ', ώς τὸ χεῖμ', ὀπισθόπουν,

πάχνη τὰ πρωτόλεια τῶν μηνῶν δάκνει.

πρὶν δ' ὑπερέχειν μ' ἀλγοῦντα, σήμηνον τὸ πᾶς.

Θάνατος βροτοῖσιν αἰσχος ἡ κῦδος φέρει.

τίς τὸν κτανόντα πάντας, ώς σὺ φῆς, κτανών;

τίς εὔχεται Σάμψωνα καιρίαν βαλών;

## ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

ἐχθρῶν ἀθικτον ἵσθι νιν τεθνηκότα.

## ΜΑΝΩΣ.

φόνοισιν ἐκκεκμηκότ', ἡ ποιῷ τρόπῳ; 1650

## ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

φήμ' αὐτόχειρά νιν θανεῖν.

MANOAH.

Self-violence? what cause  
Brought him so soon at variance with himself  
Among his foes?

MESSENGER.

Inevitable cause,  
At once both to destroy and be destroyed.  
The edifice, where all were met to see him,  
Upon their heads and on his own he pulled.

MANOAH.

Oh, lastly over-strong against thyself! 1590  
A dreadful way thou tookest to thy revenge.  
More than enough we know; but while things yet  
Are in confusion, give us, if thou canst,  
Eye-witness of what first or last was done,  
Relation more particular and distinct.

MESSENGER.

Occasions drew me early to this city,  
And, as the gates I entered with sun-rise,  
The morning trumpets festival proclaimed,  
Through each high street. Little I had dispatched,  
When all abroad was rumoured that this day 1600  
Samson should be brought forth, to shew the people  
Proof of his mighty strength in feats and games.

## ΜΑΝΩΣ.

*αὐτοκτόνος*

πῶς ἡν, ἐν ἔχθροις αὐτὸς ἔχθιστος φανεῖς;

## ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

θυήσκων γὰρ ἔθανάτωσεν, οὐδὲ ἀλυξεὶς ἡν.  
τὸ δῶμα πᾶσιν εἰς θέαν ηθροισμένοις  
αὐτῷ τ' ἐφείλκυσ', ἐγκατασκῆπτων ὁμοῦ.

## ΜΑΝΩΣ.

αὐτὸς τὸ σαυτοῦ πῆμα τῷ σθένει λαβὼν  
δεινόν τιν' εἶλου, φεῦ, τρόπου τιμωρίας.  
ἡμῖν δὲ, καίπερ καταμαθοῦσι καὶ λαν,  
σὺ ταῦτα, πάντων τῶνδ' ἄτ' αὐτόπτης γεγώς,  
σκεθρῶς διηγοῦ, πρὶν καταστῆναι πόλιν.      1660

## ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

ἔγωγε ταῦτας, ὅρθριος μολἀν, πύλας  
ἔτυχον ἐσελθών· ἐν δὲ τῷδ' ἔωθινῃ  
ἔδειξ' ἕορτὴν κατὰ μέσην σάλπιγξ πόλιν,  
κάμοι τὰ πράγματ' οὕτι προύκοψεν πολὺ,  
πρὶν δημόθρουν με πάντοθεν κιχεῖν φάτιν  
ώς σήμερον Σάμψωνα μέλλοιεν, σθένος  
δείξοντα παμμέγιστον ἐξάγειν τάχα,  
ἀγῶνας ἀθλήσοντα, πάνδημον θέαν.

I sorrowed at his captive state, but minded  
Not to be absent at that spectacle.  
The building was a spacious theatre,  
Half-round, on two main pillars vaulted high,  
With seats where all the lords, and each degree  
Of sort, might sit in order to behold ;  
The other side was open, where the throng  
On banks and scaffolds under sky might stand ;      1610  
I among these aloof obscurely stood.  
The feast and noon grew high, and sacrifice  
Had filled their hearts with mirth, high cheer, and wine,  
When to their sports they turned. Immediately  
Was Samson, as a public servant, brought,  
In their state livery clad ; before him pipes  
And timbrels ; on each side went armed guards,  
Both horse and foot, before him and behind  
Archers and slingers, cataphracts and spears.  
At sight of him the people with a shout      1620  
Rifted the air, clamouring their god with praise,  
Who had made their dreadful enemy their thrall.  
He patient, but undaunted, where they led him  
Came to the place ; and what was set before him,

κείνῳ μὲν οὖν παθόντι συμπαθῶν ὅμως,  
τὸν νοῦν προσεύχον τῆδε τῇ θεωρίᾳ.

1670

θέατρον ἦν μὲν τῆδε παιγνίδι μέγα,  
τὸ δ' ἡμικύκλιον κίοσίν τ' ἡρεῖδετο,  
ἥμπισχέ θ' ἀψίς· ἐν δὲ παντοῖ τινες  
στοιχηδὸν ἔθεάσαντο, συνθέτοις ἔδραις·  
ἔτέρωθι δ', ὅχθαις βήμασίν θ' ὑπαίθριος  
λεώς, ἐν φ' καὶ χωρὶς ὧν ἐλάνθανον.

αὐτοὶ δὲ κωμάζοντες, ἐν μεσημβρίᾳ,  
ἡδη δ' ὑπερπλησθέντες εὐοίνου βορᾶς  
θύοντες, εὔφρονές τε, τῶν προκειμένων

εὔχοντο, δέσμιον. τε δημιὰ στολὴ

1680

Σάμψωνα μετεπέμψαντο. κύμβαλ' ἦν πάρος  
αὐλοὶ τε, πεξοὶ δ' ἵππόται τ' ὅπισθέ νιν,  
ξὺν σφενδονητῶν ξύν τε τοξοτῶν λόχοις  
δόρασίν τε καταφράκταις τε τῆδε χάτέρᾳ,  
κατῆγον· ὡς δ' ἐσεῦδον, οὐρανὸς βοῆ  
διερράγη, τὸν ἐνθάδ' ὑμνούντων θεὸν,  
δοῦλον παρασχόνθ' ὅστις ἦν πάντων φόβος.  
ὁ δ' ἀτρεμαῖος, τλησικαρδίφ φρενὶ,  
ὅποι νιν ἦγον, πάντα θαυμαστῷ σθένει  
ἔλκων τε βαστάζων τε διετέλει χεροῦν

1690

Which without help of eye might be assayed,  
To heave, pull, draw or break, he still performed,  
All with incredible, stupendous force,  
None daring to appear antagonist.  
At length for intermission sake they led him  
Between the pillars ; he his guide requested      1630  
(For so from such as nearer stood we heard)  
As over-tired to let him lean a while  
With both his arms on those two massy pillars,  
That to the arched roof gave main support.  
He unsuspecting led him ; which when Samson  
Felt in his arms, with head a while inclined,  
And eyes fast fixed he stood, as one who prayed,  
Or some great matter in his mind revolved.  
At last with head erect thus cried aloud :  
“Hitherto, Lords, what your commands imposed      1640  
I have performed, as reason was, obeying,  
Not without wonder or delight beheld ;  
Now of my own accord such other trial  
I mean to shew you of my strength, yet greater,  
As with amaze shall strike all who behold.”  
This uttered, straining all his nerves he bowed;

φέρων τ' ἀναρρήγγυνός θ', δοσ' ὁμμάτων ἄτερ  
 ἔξεστι τολμᾶν· δεινὰ δ' ἦν ὁρᾶν πάνυ,  
 οὐδὲ ἀνθάμιλλος ἦν τις, οὐδὲ ἐναντίος.  
 στήλαιν δέ νιν μεταξὺ ταῦν διπλαῖν τέλος  
 ἔθεσαν ἐλινύσσοντα· χῶς ἥδη καμὼν,  
 (τὸ δ' ἦν ἀκοῦσαι τῶν παραστάντων πάρα,)  
 γῆτησε τοὺς ἄγοντας, ὡστε κίονας  
 δισσοῖσι δισσοὶς ξυλλαβεῖν βραχίοσιν,  
 οἱ δὴ βεβαίων ὑποδοχαῖς στηριγμάτων  
 ὀροφὰς δόμων σώζουσι κοιλογαστόρων  
 οἱ δ' οὐχ ὑποπτεύοντες ἥγανον· τὰ δὲ  
 μάρψας, κάρα τ' ἔνευσε πρὸν τολμᾶν πλέω,  
 τά τ' ὅμμαθ', ως ἵκτωρ τις, ἢ τιν' ἐν φρενὸς  
 στρωφῶν βάθει δυφέκλυτ', ἐστηρίζετο.  
 τέλος δ' ἀναβλέπων τε καὶ λαμπρὸν βοῶν  
 τάδ' εἰπ· ἄνακτες, μέχρι τοῦδ' εἰργασμένος  
 τά μοι τεταγμέν', ως μάλ' εὔκὸς ἦν, κυρῷ.  
 τὰ δ' ἀσμένοις ἦν, οὐδὲ ἄνευ θάμβους, ἰδεῖν.  
 νῦν αὐτόβουλος ἐννοῶ τοιαῦτα δὴ  
 δεῖξαι τεκμήρι', εἰς ὑπερβολὴν, σθένους,  
 οἵ ἀν τὸν εἰσορῶντα καταπλήξαι φόβῳ.  
 ώς οὖν ὄρεινὰ δυσπινόφ σαλεύματα

1700

1710

As with the force of winds and waters pent  
When mountains tremble, those two massy pillars  
With horrible convulsion to and fro  
He tugged, he shook, till down they came and  
The whole roof after them, with burst of thunde  
Upon the heads of all who sat beneath,  
Lords, ladies, captains, counsellors, or priests,  
Their choice nobility and flower, not only  
Of this but each Philistian city round,  
Met from all parts to solemnize this feast.  
Samson, with these immixed, inevitably  
Pulled down the same destruction on himself ;  
The vulgar only scaped who stood without.

## CHORUS.

Oh, dearly-bought revenge, yet glorious !  
Living or dying thou hast fulfilled  
The work for which thou wast foretold  
To Israel ; and now liest victorious  
Among thy slain self-killed,  
Not willingly, but tangled in the fold

τυφῷ τε κλεισθέντων τε χειμάρρων μένει,  
αἰνοῦσιν ἐλκηθμοῖσι κιόνων βάθρα  
ἔσεισεν ἔνθα κάνθα καὶ διέσπασε·

τὰ δ' αἷψα συνθλιβέντα καταπεσόντα τε  
ἐπὶ πᾶσιν αὐτὴν ἐγκατέσκηψεν στέγην  
τοῖς ἡμένοισι, κοιράνοις γυναιξί τε,  
ταγοῖς θυηπόλοις τε καὶ βουληφόροις,

ὅσοι παρῆσαν τῶν Φιλιστίνων πρόμοι· 1720

οὐ γὰρ πόλεως ξυνῆλθον ἐκ ταύτης μόνου,  
οἱ δ' ἀμφὶ ταύτην πάντοθεν, τοῖς οἰς θεοῖς  
ρέζοντες ἔννομ· ἐν δὲ τῇ ξυνῇ φθορᾷ  
αὐτῷ τὸν αὐτὸν ἐνέβαλεν Σάμψων μάρον.  
ὁ δῆμος, ἔξω τυγχάνων, ἐν ἀσφαλεῖ.

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

φεῦ μάλα πολλοῦ γ' ἀντιδοθείσας  
ποινὰς πράξας, ἀλλ' ἐρικυδεῖς,  
ἔργον τελέσας τὸ προκηρυχθέν  
τοῖσιν 'Ἐβραίοις· νῦν δὲ τριακτήρ  
ἐν τεθνεώσιν κεῖσαι τεθνεώς,  
ἄκων μάλα δὴ, τῆς γὰρ ἀνάγκης  
ἀρκευει εἶλον στερροῖς πλέγμασιν·  
ἥς κατ' ἐφετμὰς μόρον εἴληχας

1730

Of dire necessity, whose law in death conjoin'd  
Thee with thy slaughtered foes, in number more  
Than all thy life had slain before.

## SEMICHORUS.

While their hearts were jocund and sublime,  
Drunk with idolatry, drunk with wine, 1670  
And fat regorged of bulls and goats,  
Chanting their idol, and preferring  
Before our living Dread, who dwells  
In Silo, His bright sanctuary,  
Among them he a spirit of phrenzy sent,  
Who hurt their minds,  
And urged them on with mad desire  
To call in haste for their destroyer.  
They, only set on sport and play,  
Unweetingly importuned 1680

ξὺν τοῖς ὑπὸ σοῦ θανατωθεῖσιν,  
πλείοσιν δὲ καὶ  
ζωὴν ἔκανες διὰ πᾶσαν.

## HMIXORΟΣ.

ἐν φῷ γε θεομανεῖς  
καὶ φρενόπληκτοι χαροποί τ'  
οἰνοβαρεῖς τ' ἔσαν,  
ταυρέου τε δημοῦ  
ἀδην γέμουτες αὐγέου τ',  
ἀθεον θεὸν μὲν ὑμνῷ-  
δοῦντες, ώς δὲ μεῖζονα  
κλήζοντες δὲ τὸν ἀ-  
-μὸν Φόβον αἰὲν δύτα,  
τὸν Σιλῶνος ἀγλαὸν  
ναὸν κατοικοῦντ', αὐτὸς εἰσέ-  
-πεμψ' οἰστρήλατον  
μανίαν φρενοκλόπον, παρακόπους  
αὐτὸν προσκαλεῖν  
τὸν σφᾶς ὀλέσοντ', ἐπι-  
-θυμοῦντας ἀσπερχέσ·  
μόνον δὲ ἐν κραδίᾳ  
τερπνῶς παίγματ' ἔχοντες,

1740

1750

Their own destruction to come speedy upon them :  
So fond are mortal men,  
Fallen into wrath divine,  
As their own ruin on themselves to invite ;  
Insensate left, or to sense reprobate,  
And with blindness internal struck.

**SEMICHORUS.**

But he, though blind of sight,  
Despised, and thought extinguished quite,  
With inward eyes illuminated,  
His fiery virtue roused  
From under ashes into sudden flame ;

λειπόμενοι δὲ νοῦ,  
 λιπαροῦσιν αὐτοὶ,  
 σφᾶς καὶ τάχιστα τὰν δύναι  
 κιχεῖν· βρότειον ὀφλόν-  
 -τες πάθημα μωρίας,  
 κόπτῳ θεοσσύτῳ,  
 αὐτομάτῳ δὲ βουλῇ,  
 τῶν σφιν αἰψὺ διεθρίων  
 ἐπεσπεσόντων ἐφθάρησαν,  
 ανόητοι πάνυ,  
 τητωμένους γάρ ἔλιπε Δαιμῶν,  
 ἀναισθησίᾳ  
 βεβλαμμένοι, ἢ φρενῶν  
 ἀλαῶν ἀμαυρώσει.

## HMIXORΟΣ.

αὐτὸς δὲ, καίπερ ὄψιν ἐστερημένος,  
 παρά τ' ἀνθρώπους οὐδενὸς ἄξιος,  
 ἢ καὶ, τό γε δοκοῦν, ἀφανῆς,  
 βλέπων τῆς φρενὸς ὅμμασιν,  
 πυριφλεγὲς μένος τ' ἡ-  
 -γειρ', ώς αἴφνιδιον φῶς στεροπᾶς ἐκ σποδοῦ ἐκρήξαν,

And as an evening dragon came,  
Assailant on the perched roosts,  
And nests in order ranged  
Of tame villatic fowl; but as an eagle  
His cloudless thunder bolted on their heads.  
So Virtue, given for lost,  
Depressed and overthrown, as seemed,  
Like that self-begotten bird,  
In the Arabian woods embost,                   1700  
That no second knows nor third,  
And lay erewhile a holocaust,  
From out her ashy womb now teemed,  
Revives, refLOURISHES, then vigorous most  
When most unactive deemed;  
And, though her body die, her fame survives

οἵος θ' ἐσπέριος δράκων ἐφάνθη,  
 κρεμαστοῖς ὅστις ἥλθ' ἐπίσσυτος  
 νεοσσοτρόφοις σταθμοῖς  
 εὐ τεταγμένοισι που  
 τιθασῶν ἀγραύλων  
 πετεηνῶν· δὲ ἀετοῦ  
 ἐς κεφαλὰς δίκαν ἐβρόντα,  
 νεφέων ἄτερθεν ὅρφνας·  
 ἀρετὰ τοιοῦτον·

1780

ἢν γὰρ φθαρεῖσαν ἐσ τὸ πᾶν ἐπήκασαν,

ἀπολωλιάν θ' ὡς ἐκπατίαν,  
 ὡς αὐτοφυὲς ἐν Ἀραβικῶν  
 θαῦμ' ὅρνιθος ἐρημίᾳ  
 δευδρέων, ἀνέστη,

ὁ δὴ μουνογενὲς δεύτερον οὐκ, οὐδὲ τρίτον, δέχεται,

ἐν ὧπερ δὲ δλόκαυτον ὡς ἔκειτο,                    1790  
 ἀναζῆ, γαστέρος δὲ φεψαλω-  
 -θείσης ἀναβρύει πάλιν,  
 τότε μάλιστα βίον ἔχον  
 δτε πλεῖστ' ἀπειπεῖν  
 ἐδόκει· σῶμα γὰρ θάνεν,  
 ἀλλ' ἀρετᾶς ἔτ' ἔστι δόξα·

A secular bird, ages of lives.

MANOAH.

Come, come ; no time for lamentation now,  
Nor much more cause. Samson hath quit himself  
Like Samson, and heroicly hath finished      1710  
A life heroic, on his enemies  
Fully revenged ; hath left them years of mourning.  
And lamentation to the sons of Capthor,  
Through all Philistine bounds ; to Israël  
Honour hath left, and freedom, let but them  
Find courage to lay hold on this occasion ;  
To himself and father's house eternal fame :  
And, which is best and happiest yet, all this  
With God not parted from him, as was feared,  
But favouring and assisting to the end.      1720  
Nothing is here for tears, nothing to wail  
Or knock the breast, no weakness, no contempt,  
Dispraise, or blame ; nothing but well and fair,  
And what may quiet us in a death so noble.  
Let us go find the body, where it lies  
Soaked in his enemies' blood, and from the stream  
With lavers pure and cleansing herbs wash off  
The clotted gore. I with what speed the while  
—Gaza is not in plight to say us nay—  
Will send for all my kindred, all my friends,      1730

φοίνιχ' ὑπερβαλοῦσα,  
ἀδιάφθορος ἔη.

1798

## ΜΑΝΩΣ.

ἄγετε δὴ, καιρὸς γάρ οὐκέτ', οὐδὲ δεῖ, θρηνῳδίας,  
τοῦα γὰρ δέδρακε Σάμψων, οὐα καὶ Σάμψων' ἐχρῆν,  
ζῶν τε καὶ θυήσκων ἀγαστός οὐδὲ τῆς τιμωρίας  
ἀποτυχῶν κατ' οὐδὲν, ἐν γε τῶν Φιλιστίνων ὅροις  
πολυετεῖς ἔθηκεν ἄτας τῷ γένει τοῦ Κάππορος,  
τοῖσι δ' Ἐβραίοισι δόξαν καὶ πόνων ἀπαλλαγῆν,  
μή νυν ἀποτυχοῦσι καιροῦ δειλίας ἡσσημένοις.  
ἀμφὶ δ' αὐτὸν, ἀμφὶ γέννην, εὖ γ' ἀείμνηστον κλέος·  
ὅ δὲ κράτιστον, οὐκ ἀπόντος, τοῦτο δ' ήν δεῖσαι, Θεού.  
αὐτὸς ήν βοηθὸς, αὐτὸς διετέλει παραστατῶν.

τοισίδ' οὐ κλαυθμὸς προσήκει, στέρνα κοπτόντων  
γόοι,

1809

οὐ γάρ ἐστ' ἄβληχρον οὐδὲν, οὐδ' ἀτιμίας τυχόν·  
πάγκαλ' ήμιν, εὖ θανόντος, ταῦτ' ἔχει μειλήγματα.  
δεῖ δὲ κείμενον τὸ σῶμα καὶ μυδῶν ἐχθρῶν φόνῳ  
ἐκματεύσαντας, ροᾶσι καὶ φυτοῖς καθαρσίοις  
αἷμα δὴ τὸ συμπεπηγὸς ἐκβαλεῖν διαρρέοντη.  
ἐν δὲ τῷδ', ὡς οὐκ ἐχόντων τῶνδε κωλύειν ἔτι,  
ώς τάχιστα τοὺς φίλους τε τούς τε συγγενεῖς ἔγω

To fetch him hence, and solemnly attend,  
With silent obsequy and funeral train,  
Home to his father's house. There will I build him  
A monument, and plant it round with shade  
Of laurel ever-green and branching palm,  
With all his trophies hung, and acts enrolled  
In copious legend, or sweet lyric song.  
Thither shall all the valiant youth resort,  
And from his memory inflame their breasts,  
To matchless valour and adventures high ;  
The virgins also shall, on feastful days,  
Visit his tomb with flowers, only bewailing  
His lot unfortunate in nuptial choice,  
From whence captivity and loss of eyes.

1740

## CHORUS.

All is best, though we oft doubt,  
What the unsearchable dispose  
Of highest Wisdom brings about,  
And ever best found in the close.  
Oft He seems to hide his face,  
But unexpectedly returns  
And to his faithful champion hath in place  
Bore witness gloriously ; whence Gaza mourns,

1750

τοῦτο μώμενος ξυνάξω· τὸν νέκυν κομιστέον  
 ἐς τὰ πατρὸς, εὐσταλές τε καὶ σιωπηλὸν γέρας  
 προσλαβεῖν κτερίσματ<sup>3</sup> αὐτὸς καὶ δάφνης ἀειθαλοῦς  
 περὶ πυκασθὲν, εὐκόμῳ τε, πλάτανος ἦν φέρει, σκιᾳ,  
 θήσομαι μνημεῖον, ἐν τε καὶ τρόπαι<sup>1</sup> ἐνημμένα, 1821  
 ἔργα τ'<sup>2</sup> ἀν τὰ πάντα γράψαιμ<sup>2</sup>, εἴτε πολυεπεῖ λόγῳ,  
 εἴτ<sup>3</sup> ἐν εὐλύροισιν φόδαις<sup>4</sup> ἐν δὲ τῷ λοιπῷ χρόνῳ  
 πᾶς νέος τις ἀλκιμός τε, τῇδ<sup>5</sup> δις ἀν φοιτῶν κυρῆ,  
 τάδε νοῶν, ἐπ' ἔργα φαιδιμ<sup>6</sup> ἔξοχόν τ' εὐθαρσίαν  
 μᾶλλον εἰσ<sup>7</sup> ἀναπτερωθείσ<sup>8</sup> ἐν δέ ἐορταῖσίν ποτε  
 τὸν τάφον στέψουσιν ἀνθέων παρθένοι δωρήμασι,  
 κακόποτμον μόνον στένουσαι δυσγάμου γάμου μόρον,  
 δουλίων ἀρχὰς ὁδυρμῶν, ὁμμάτων τ' ἐφθαρμένων.

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

πάντ<sup>9</sup> ἐπὶ τάγαθὸν, ἐν τε τελευτῇ 1830  
 βέλτιστ<sup>10</sup> ἔξεβη, εἰ καὶ Ταμίου  
 τοῦ παναρίστον πυκνὴν σοφίαν  
 ἥγνοίησε τις ὄψιν θαμὰ γὰρ  
 κρύψαι δόξας, ἀψ ἀνελήλυθεν  
 αἰφνιδίον πως, ως νῦν, πρόμαχον  
 πιστὸν ἐπάρας, μάρτυς καιρίος  
 ἐξ ὧν Γάζη θ<sup>11</sup>, οὐ τε συνώμοσαν

And all that band them to resist  
His uncontrollable intent.  
His servants He, with new acquist  
Of true experience from this great event,  
With peace and consolation hath dismissed,  
And calm of mind, all passion spent.



ώστ' ἀντισχεῖν τῷ δυσπαλάμῳ,  
 ἔνυέβη κλαίειν· εἰ δέ τις αὐτῷ  
 κεδνὸς ὄπαδος, καὶνὰ μαθόντας  
 καὶ μάλ' ἔχέγγυα, χαίροντας ἐῶν  
 φρένα τ' εὔκήλους,  
 ψυχαῖς ἐνέπνευσε γαλήνην.

1840



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